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Travel Tales Tall And Small

SOMETIMES THE SMALLEST MOMENTS CREATE THE STRONGEST MEMORIES.

Welcome to our first issue of 2017, and the first of our two dedicated travel issues this year.

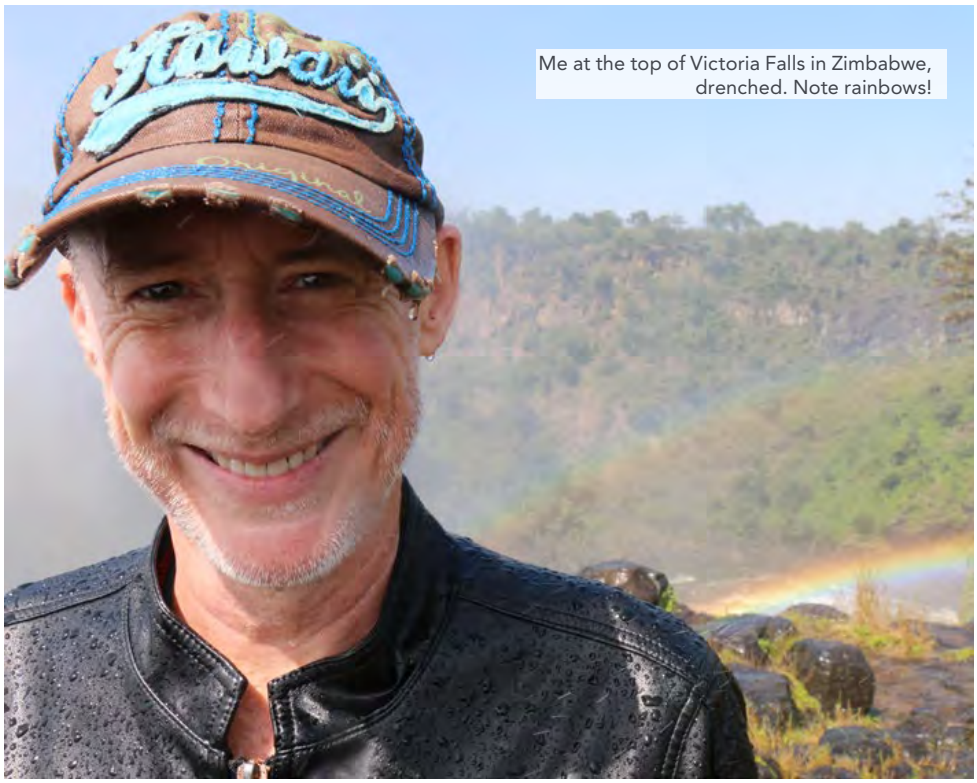
The gays, myself included, love travel. Many of us live in double-income, kid-free households and have the time and spare cash to spend on adventures abroad.

I'm fortunate and extremely grateful for the incredible travel experiences that have come my way courtesy of this job. I've travelled to South Africa, Norway, The Philippines and Canada as a Mr Gay World judge, for example, and been invited on sponsored trips by travel bureaus from around the world.

We tend to remember the big moments in our travels. For me, it's things like watching the finals of an international fireworks competition at the top of a gorge outside Montréal. The fireworks were so close and so bright it felt like the night sky was tearing open to reveal heaven. It's things like seeing *David* by Michelangelo at the Accademia in Fiorenza – photographs don't prepare you for the power, beauty and overt sexuality of the statue. It's white-water rafting in Indonesia, dog sledding through a snowy forest in Ushuaia, safari in Botswana, my boyfriend teaching me to ski in New Zealand.

But sometimes the little, seemingly inconsequential moments, remain with you as well. I vividly recall the uncurious San Franciscan who couldn't think of a single reason he'd want to travel to Australia… except to see the water going the wrong way down the toilet. There was the New York taxi driver who was astounded to learn that New Zealand is not "the end of the map" because the world is round. And the LAX waitress who became increasingly furious at me for asking for a salad without meat.

I remember bursting into tears in Paris when I realised that the park I was in was built as a memorial to the Jewish children of the neighbourhood who were shipped out to concentration camps. And I fondly remember the glamorous Parisian lady on the Metro who, on her way to the opera, lugged my suitcase over the turnstile for me when I went through without it!



Me at the top of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, drenched. Note rainbows!

On my travels I've always been astounded by the kindness and generosity of people who have very little: the women working at a remote HIV sanctuary outside Johannesburg, the people of a Philippines' slum who banded together to build a library for their community.

Everybody has great travel stories and I'd love to hear yours. What have been your best and worst travel experiences? Did you have an amazing long haul flight, or a dreadful one? What about a holiday romance? Holiday sex? Have you travelled with a group of friends, or made lifelong friends of people you met on your journeys? Some travel disasters become hilarious anecdotes in hindsight.

If you'd like to share some of your stories, please email them to us at: burnttoast@DNAmagazine.com.au. Include some photos if you like. Everything we receive we'll consider for publication in a future issue.

I hope the travel stories in this issue entertain and inspired your own future travel plans. Travel safe, and thanks for reading!

Andrew Creagh
Founding Editor

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INSIDE THE MINDS OF DNA READERS! EMAILS, LETTERS, TWEETS, FACEBOOK POSTS, CARRIER PIGEON DISPATCHES AND RAMBLINGS

RICKY ON THE COVER OF DNA #203

A beautiful cover man and great edition all round. Thank you DNA for another terrific year. Thoughtful stories, gorgeous models. It's a real pleasure to read the magazine each month. I hope Andrew and all the team have a beautiful Christmas and may 2017 be all you want it to be. Best wishes to you all! – *Revboy*

Thank you, Revboy! – Ed.

Great cover image. After receiving the issue in the mail, along with the excellent 2017 calendar, I must say Ricky Tishler is *the man* of 2016 and 2017. I keep going back to check him out. Thank you DNA. – *Radar69*

Ricky also appeared on the cover of DNA #188 – Ed.

DNA POOL PARTY

Grumble grumble wrong hemisphere grumble grumble bloody miserable up here grumble grumble. – *George Forth*

BREAKFAST ANYONE?

#DNALOVING: WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO EAT FOR BREAKFAST?

I'd like to eat him for breakfast, lunch and dinner. – *Rick Zalez*

He's holding his banana and I can hold his I hope. I don't bite too much. – *John Brown*

I have bananas. – *Manuel F Zúñiga*

Think I'll just eat some manjuice off of that 6 pack. – *Kenneth Hibbitts*

Uuuuuum. Ohhhh. Aaaaah. Just shove it in my mouth. I'm sure it will taste great and give me my protein requirement. – *Robert Youngquist*

Uncooked hotdog. – *Andrew Jaraba Banzon*

I would like you and your package in your underwear. If I can't have that I will have pancakes. – *Darryl Costey*

Something organic! – *Edwin Maldonado*

The thirst is real! – Ed.

(SOURCE INSTAGRAM)

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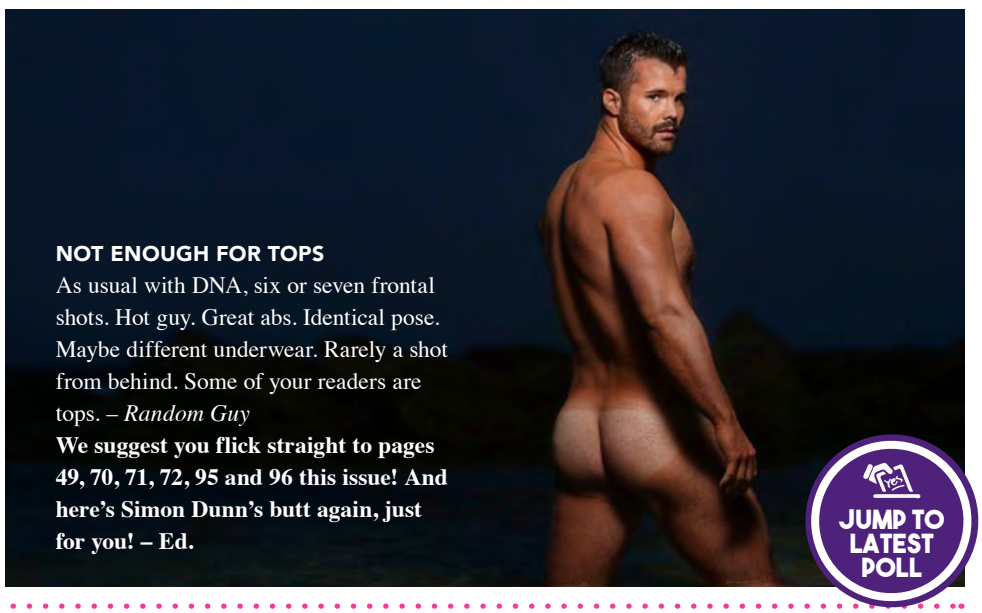

NOT ENOUGH FOR TOPS

As usual with DNA, six or seven frontal shots. Hot guy. Great abs. Identical pose. Maybe different underwear. Rarely a shot from behind. Some of your readers are tops. – *Random Guy*

We suggest you flick straight to pages 49, 70, 71, 72, 95 and 96 this issue! And here's Simon Dunn's butt again, just for you! – Ed.

JUMP TO LATEST POLL

DNA POLL: FUR REAL

Olympic diver Tom Daley has revealed he hates chest-hair on men. How do DNA readers feel about hairy chests?

THE MORE HAIR THE BETTER!	26%
A LITTLE BIT OF HAIR IS HOT!	56%
BARE SKIN IS THE BEST!	18%

I love body hair on men. A beautiful hairy chest and abs is very HOT. The guy in the pic [Ben Todd shot by Michael Ching] is perfect. I agree with those who say ban the razor – trim but do not shave. – *Gardenguy*

I like guys to look natural. If they are naturally hairy or hairless that is fine. If they are hairy and remove it, it just looks weird to me. Be your natural selves guys. – *Bascia2*

Couldn't care either way. I consider the whole package and personality of a man. – *Sexydude*

If you want hair-free chests go back to the ladies. – *Maxfried*

Hair is very sexy… but not on shoulders or backs. – *Pegasus41*

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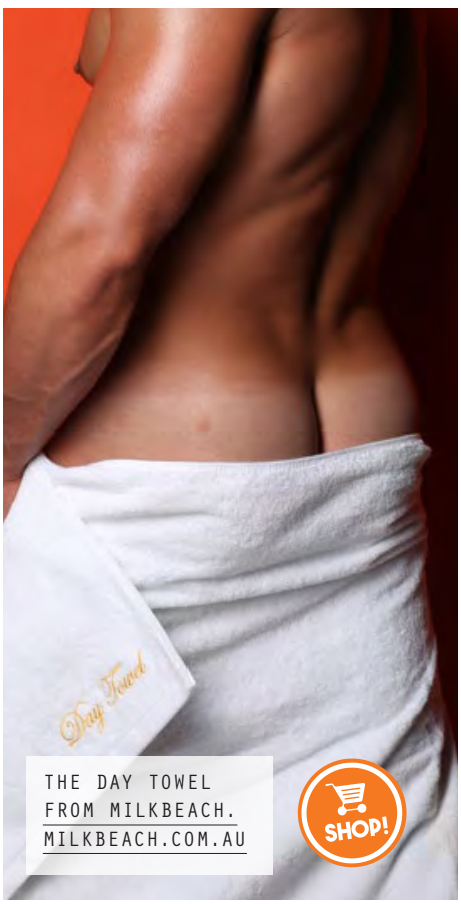

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Dylan Hart photographed by Studio Christian Scott, DNA #203

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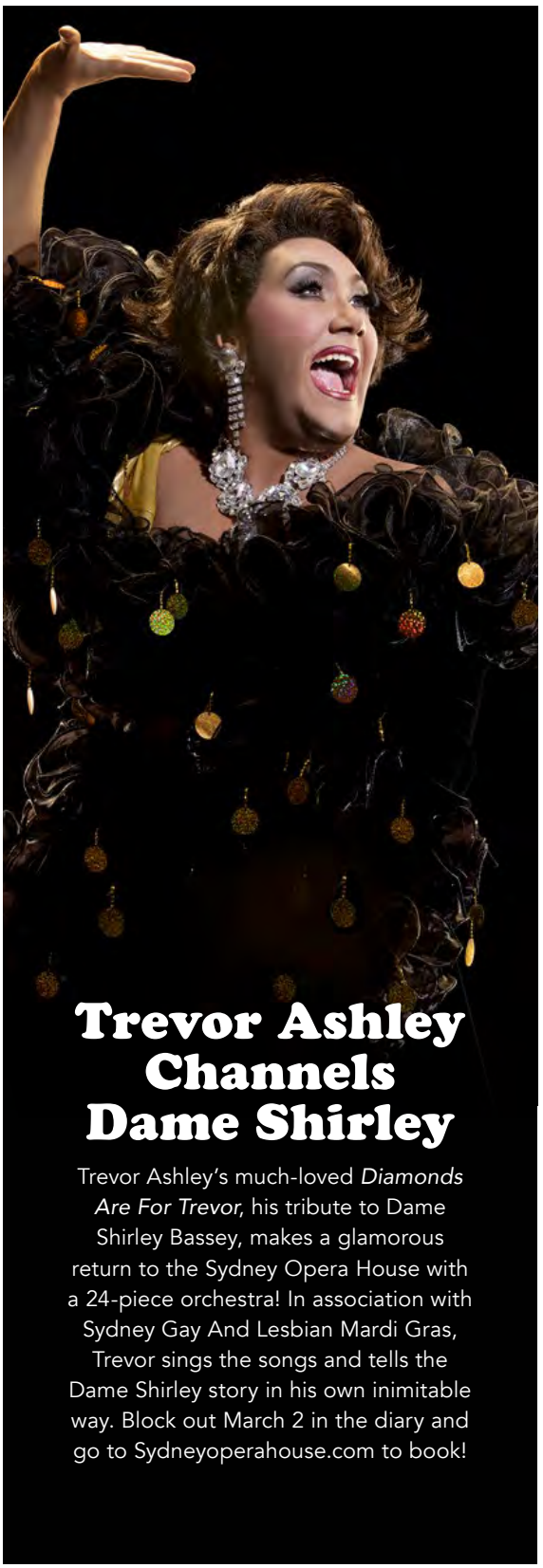
THE STUFF WE'RE Loving...

Gold…fingerrrr!
Da! Da! Dah!



Trevor Ashley Channels Dame Shirley

Trevor Ashley's much-loved *Diamonds Are For Trevor*, his tribute to Dame Shirley Bassey, makes a glamorous return to the Sydney Opera House with a 24-piece orchestra! In association with Sydney Gay And Lesbian Mardi Gras, Trevor sings the songs and tells the Dame Shirley story in his own inimitable way. Block out March 2 in the diary and go to Sydneyoperahouse.com to book!

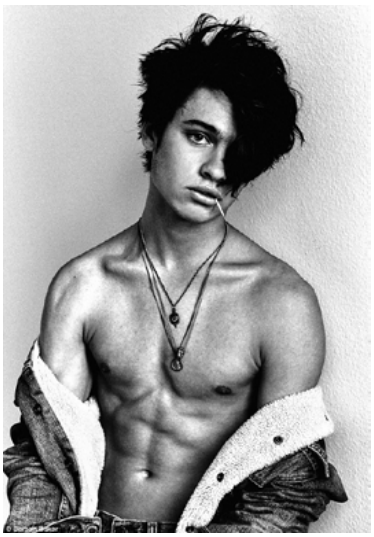


IMAGE: INSTAGRAM

Who's That Boy?

He's Dylan Jagger Lee, son of US rocker Tommy Lee and *Baywatch* babe Pamela Anderson. Just thought you'd like to know.

VCL

It's 145 in Roman numerals but it's also "Visible Cock Line". Thanks to Pietro "World's Sexiest Math Teacher" Boselli for posting this pic of his "145" on Instagram.

FACE TOYS

Nothing beats a wet shave with a razor for smoothness on all face and hair types but Braun's Series 9 electric is getting ever closer. Literally. Their "hyper-lift and cut" technology is scary sexy. Looks good, feels nice in the hand and cleans itself – better than most boyfriends, eh?

TAP FOR MORE!

DAY TOWEL

The Day Towel by Milkbeach. It's premium 550gsm ring-spun combed cotton, fashion packaged, in luminous colours, 90cm x 180cm, high-end and ethically purchased from responsibly sources. Sexy!

www.milkbeach.com.au

The Perfect Ts

You don't need to walk around with a bunch of pegs on your T-shirt to make it fit your body perfectly. So stop doing that. Instead, check out Citizen Wolf who use a T-shirt template and then tailor it to your perfect fit. Brilliant! They're at Citizenwolf.com

BOYS BUFFING UP

The *Baywatch* movie isn't out until mid-'17 so in the meantime we'll make do with Zac Efron's beach bod from *Dirty Grandpa* (pictured above left with Robert De Niro).

GETTING UNDRESSED

You meet a stranger, strip down to your undies, climb into bed and start a conversation. This is how most gay men meet, right? SBS's *Undressed* turns the dating game into a reality show with season one including David and John. David (left) is an Aboriginal health worker who donned drag for Dubbo Pride last year. John is career focused and romantic but unlucky in love. Tune in mid-January to see how they get on!

Kyron We makes waves with a sexy gay beach romp video.

ME, MYSELF, WE

Trinidadian singer Kryon We's *Dear Single Me* fuses reggae and urban grooves. The video is an unabashed skimpy-swimwear affair! He tells Marc Andrews about his singledom and how Oprah helped shape his life.

DNA: Your *Dear Single Me* video pushes plenty of buttons!
Kyron: Thank you! We've seen the boy-meets-girl fairytale too many times. My intention with the courting and cuddling scenes were to loosen up some buttons.

What was the inspiration for the song?
I go out dancing at least once a week, but I'm yet to find Mr Right! Every time I listen to *Dear Single Me* I'm reminded that if I keep believing in love I will attract the right people.

What's been the response so far to the song and video?
Positive. Some of my friends text me the lyrics from time to time and that feels good. I've made some new friends online and they find the video sexy. That means I did my job well.

Exactly how single are you now?
I've been single since 2012. I go on dates every now and then but if I don't feel the connection is strong after three months I refocus my energy on dating myself.

What does that mean?
As the primary investor, manager, publicist and producer in my life, I spend all my time developing material, an image and a following for myself.

When did you realise you wanted to pursue your dream of pop stardom?
Growing up in Trinidad I always loved Destiny's Child and Michael Jackson music videos. After moving to New York I made it into the Brooklyn Youth Chorus. I've since performed back-up for Elton John, Lou Reed and Barbra Streisand. Nothing compares to the exhilarating experience of performing.

Was Bob Marley a big influence on you?
I think I was born knowing at least ten Bob Marley tunes. I can't remember when I learned about him because my mother quotes lyrics from him endlessly.

Was your mother a big influence?
Yes. For as long as I can remember she has spoken to me openly on many taboo subjects and has always encouraged me to inquire within. Oprah Winfrey was also a huge influence. Her talk show exposed me to various perspectives on subjects are rarely addressed in Trinidad.

What are you most proud of in yourself?
I'm 25 and still most proud of myself for coming out when I was 19. I consider this video to be a testimony of my commitment to live honestly and follow my heart.

You have no problem showing skin – what's your workout regime?
Running, running and more running, push ups, sit-ups and squats. I enjoy bike riding and the occasional yoga class. Did I mention I go out dancing at least once a week!

What do you look for in a partner?
Someone who is confident, has a sense of humor and is a smart businessman.

What is your best feature and best attribute?
I have very soft skin and I'm an attentive listener. I'm also a pretty supportive guy. I love kids and look forward to having a family.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?
I see myself with a substantial following, on tour promoting my first album.

What's your message to the readers of DNA?
Normal is over-rated and as citizens of this Earth we have the right to pursue our dreams.

MORE: Find Kyron on Snapchat at @trinisyboy. On Instagram/Facebook look for @kyronwe

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TRAVEL TIPS FROM THE FAST LANE

AN AUSSIE SUCCESS STORY, ANTHONY AND CHRIS OF LQD SKIN CARE LAUNCHED THEIR RANGE IN BLOOMINGDALES IN THE USA LAST YEAR. THEY SPENT 13 OF THE LAST 16 WEEKS TRAVELLING FOR BUSINESS, SO WE FIGURED THEY'D HAVE SOME USEFUL TRAVEL TIPS. WE WERE RIGHT!

1. GET AN UPGRADE

We usually get the opportunity to travel business class, which, of course, is a luxury, but we often use points to upgrade to First. I can't imagine anyone forking out for a full fare First Class flight, but people do! For a greater chance to upgrade your flight, travel on a Tuesday or Thursday. These tend to be the least busy travel days. Business travellers usually choose Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Most tourists try to fly out either before or after a weekend. It's the less popular days that you're more likely to be able to use your points to upgrade, so think of this when booking.

2. YES, TO HYDRATION

Everyone knows you should keep hydrated on a long-haul flight, but did you know that you should keep your skin hydrated as well? By packing your moisturiser in your carry-on baggage, you'll not only look better when you land but you will feel fresher as well. Just make sure it's 100mL or less otherwise it won't be joining you on the flight.

3. THE BUCKLES AND BOOTS TRICK

Going through airport security can dramatically increase your stress levels. To reduce this, wear shoes you can unzip and slip on and off easily without having to do up shoelaces, and wear belts with removable buckles so you can take the clasp off and leave the belt in place without your pants ending up around your ankles.

4. LEAVE IT ON

Always leave your wristwatch on. It's not worth the risk of getting to the other side of security and finding that timepiece you saved up five years to buy has gone missing during your pat-down with security because you left your passport in your pocket and had to go back through the screener three times.

5. TELL THE BANK

Always let your bank know where you are going before you travel. Imagine arriving in LAX at 6am and getting to your hotel to find you can't use your credit card because your bank has stopped it for suspected fraud after you used it to pay for the cab and a Starbucks. It's now 1am at home and the bank's help desk isn't opening for another 8 hours!

6. DATA ROAMING: BUY BEFORE YOU FLY

Buy your International Data plan before you leave home. Forget this one and you'll be paying premium data rates from the time you set down in your new destination. Whether it's Facebook or other online aps, you'll be churning through the dollars quicker than you can say pass me a Tall Mocha Frappuccino and hold the whipped cream! Or even better, if you want to be super organised, take a spare old unlocked phone and buy a local sim when you arrive at the airport and hotspot your data off it for the duration of your stay.

7. PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

When you're moving around a lot and staying in different hotels, take a photo of your room number otherwise you might be banging on the door of room 1208 because that was the room number from the night before in a different hotel. Same goes for gym lockers. They all start to look the same after a few weeks travelling. You're always likely to have your phone on you so let it become your memory, especially if you're also jet-lagged.

8. TIME TRAVEL

The best way to avoid jet lag is to set your watch to the destination time as soon as you board your flight and immediately start living on that time zone. If you get on the flight and it's night where you are travelling, try to get some sleep straight away. When you arrive, get as much daylight as you can. If you arrive in the morning, make sure you spend as much time outside as possible and don't take a mid-afternoon nap. Stay awake to help you sleep the first night through.

9. KEEP YOUR UNDIES HANDY!

Pack your electronics, charge cables, underwear and medications in your carry-on luggage. If by chance your checked luggage gets delayed (yes, it happens), then at least you can still have a shower, change into fresh underwear, charge your phone and go shopping.

MORE: www.lqd.com.au or follow the boys in Instagram @ lqd4men

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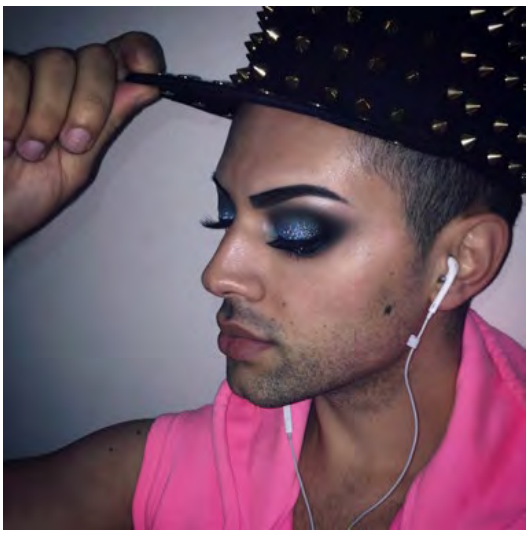
Facing Up To Party Season

SUMMER DOWN UNDER MEANS HARSH SUN, SALTY WATER AND THE PUNISHING PARTY SEASON. WE ASKED GLOBAL MAKE-UP ARTIST AND NAPOLEON PERDIS ACADEMY GRADUATE RAJJA RICHANI WHAT A BOY HAS TO DO TO SURVIVE?

DNA: People like to dress up for Mardi Gras, Halloween and costume parties. What's the best way to get a special make-up job done?
Rajja: Whether you're applying make-up to yourself or getting it done professionally, having a clear vision of what you're after. Creating a "mood board" of images and clear references is my favourite way of making sure the end result is what it needs to be for my client. YouTube is also a great source of inspiration, cool ideas, not to mention tons of tutorials if you are looking to DIY.
Drag… If a boy was going to frock-up, what would you recommend about doing the face?
First, he needs to decide whether he wants to look femme or do super-creative drag make-up. Drag has no limits. It can be pushed to the extreme or kept on the feminine side. Whatever he chooses, having fun is the key. As a make-up artist I enjoy creating both looks.

> **OMG! My favourite part of travelling is packing my toiletries bag! My motto: bring everything!**

What about taking it all off at the end of the night?
At the end of a long night, the last thing you want to do is spend forever removing make-up. Using a make-up remover/cleanser that is oil based is the key. I use Napoleon's Rebirth Of Venus Skin Renewal Cleansing Oil.
What's your number-one men's skincare tip for summer?
Use a great serum. Serums can make or break your skin care regime. They are normally more lightweight than moisturisers so they are comfortable to wear on hot days and nights.
Peels, face masks, cucumbers on the eyes… does any of that actually work?
Absolutely! I can't live without my masks and peels. Skin treatments are so important to the overall look of your skin and should definitely be inserted into your skincare regime. I recommend using a mask at least once a week. As far as some other skincare fads… if the only thing



they do is help you relax and unwind they're worth doing.
If you have a particular skin type, oily or dry, can you change that with products?
No. Your skin type is wired into your DNA and you can't change it. What you can do is manage it, and skincare has the power to do that. Personally, I'm of the opinion that constantly moist skin helps to prevent ageing, so staying hydrated is the key!
What should a boy always have in his toiletries bag while travelling?
OMG! My absolute favourite part of travelling is packing my toiletries bag! I recommend you pack as many masks as you can, especially for the plane ride. Planes are extremely dehydrating, so taking care of your skin by drinking lots of water and using masks while up in the air is so important. People must think I'm quite strange when I'm travelling because I always have a mask on in-flight. My motto when packing is "bring everything". That means whatever skincare you use at home. The other thing to think about is what season you are travelling to. If it's winter you may want to invest in a richer face and eye cream. If it's summer, lightweight products may be better.

Napoleon Perdis Suggested Products:
Opposite: Supreme Eye Cream, Multi-Hydration Gel Cream, Auto Pilot Complex Skin Renewal Serum, Skin Elixir Serum Broad Spectrum SPF15, Collagen Hydrogel Gel Mask, Auto Pilot Moisture Mist.

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OLLY MURS – 24 HRS

What's not to love about good golly Mr Olly? The 32-year-old looks like he just wandered in from a *Best Blond Bottoms Of The Year* video, never stops opening his mouth to smile and has an undeniable knack for making cracking pop tunes. Already the former British reality TV star is up to album #5 and album opener *You Don't Know Love* is as good a reason as any other to adore him. With a layer of swaggering class and maturity Justin Bieber can only dream of, it references the sound of the '80s and is still totally contemporary. He even manages to out-Bruno Bruno Mars on poignant piano ballad *Years And Years*. While there's a question whether it's actually him laying his heart bare here or his bevy of well-paid songwriters, Olly already seems a lot like the new Robbie Williams.

CATCH OLLY'S VIDEO!

Olly: dirty blonds have more fun.

EMELI SANDE – LONG LIVE THE ANGELS

Opening with a spiritual poem *Selah* that speaks of forgiveness, here's that heartbreak/divorce album you've been desperate to give your bestie who just broke up with the love of their life. Emeli's second album is, in her words, "the ultimate journey in rebirth and self-discovery". Translate that into "messy divorce" in real terms (after 10 years with her childhood sweetheart). It's no surprise the second track is called *Hurts* and another *Lonely* although, good news, she recently started dating British rapper Hypo. The 29-year-old Scottish singer also features plenty of her Zambian background here. The uplifting *Tenderly* includes vocals from her father and cousins, credited as The Serenje Choir, named after the town in the African country where her father was born.

JUSTICE – WOMAN

This art nouveau French band has often suffered in comparison with another French duo you may have heard of. Returning with their first album in five years (and just 10 tracks), they deserve to be heard just as widely as Daft Punk's *Get Lucky*. Killer single *Safe And Sound* even has a remarkably similar '70s disco riff. One track from their third album, with the suggestive title of *Randy*, might even have been stolen directly from some gay clone disco album of the era. That's a good thing, by the way, for the Grammy winning duo. *Love SOS*, meanwhile, somehow manages to suggest that their idea for this album was to bridge the gap between ABBA and Daft Punk.

BIC RUNGA – CLOSE YOUR EYES

So celebrated in her homeland of New Zealand is Bic Runga that she was honoured recently with a legacy award. While her sales have never quite matched her critical acclaim, that may change with her first album in five years. Bic has decided to tackle 10 covers and only a few of the choices are obvious (*The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* and *Only Love Can Break Your Heart*). The bulk of this collection are quirky, left-of-field choices like Kanye West's *Wolves* and Nick Drake's *Things Behind The Sun*. Genuinely lovely and definitely worth closing your eyes and melting away to.

LITTLE MIX – GLORY DAYS

Perrie, Jesy, Leigh-Anne and Jade formed as Little Mix in 2011 as part of *The X Factor* in the UK, hoping to replicate One Direction's success. While those teen dreams imploded (Zayn, call us, when you get a moment!), Little Mix have bravely carried on filling the boy/girl band void with big hooks, big hits and big inches… of gossip columns regarding all their various liaisons. Cannily realising this is actually the key to their success, their recent big hit, *Shout Out To My Ex*, was like a virtual FU to the parade of boy band members the gals have swiftly worked their way through. So smart art they, there's even an Amy-Winehouse style shuffle ballad here called *FU*. Glory, indeed.

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Paul Capsis brings his idiosyncrasies to the role of the Emcee.

Come Blow Your Horn!

CABARET RETURNS TO PROVIDE A TIMELY ANECDOTE FOR A WORLD IN DISARRAY.

WHEN IT COMES to *Cabaret*, most think of the 1972 movie starring Liza Minnelli and Michael York. And rightly so, considering this particular film earned eight Oscars and lifted Minnelli out from the shadow of her famous mother, Judy Garland.

Cabaret's story, however, goes much deeper than the popular movie. It began as *Berlin Stories*, a 1939 novel by Christopher Isherwood. It was adapted into the play *I Am A Camera* by John Van Druten in 1951 before finally becoming the 1966 *Cabaret* musical we know today. It was the song-and-lyrics duo of John Kander and Fred Ebb who created what many believe to be "the musical for people who hate musicals".

Set in Berlin of the 1930s with the rise of the Nazi Party as the political backdrop, *Cabaret* tells the story of bisexual American writer Cliff Bradshaw and his relationship with English performer Sally Bowles. The cabaret itself takes place in a seedy, burlesque nightclub called the Kit Kat Klub where social and political commentary is cleverly told through song.

Successful productions of *Cabaret* are usually innovative and intense. For instance, one Broadway production included a large, warped mirror that reflected back at the audience. The 1993 London revival directed by Sam Mendes (with Alan Cumming as the Emcee) involved the cast stripping to reveal concentration camp uniforms, yellow stars of David and pink triangles (symbolizing the Jews and the homosexuals killed in concentration camps) and a symbolic scene of a gas chamber.

Actors, directors and producers are still inspired by the chilling shadows around the show. In its 50th year, producer David M Hawkins has brought a new production to Australia, directed by Nicolas Christo who pays homage to the original source.

"We are lifting a glass to the author of the *Berlin Stories*, the incredible Christopher Isherwood," says Christo. "David Hawkins and I are so passionate about the poetry and insight of Isherwood and want to give this production that sense of wickedness and wit. This is a show that draws on the decadence of Berlin and serves up the swirling art and culture clashes of the 1920s and '30s."

Playing leads in the wickedness are Chelsea Gibb, renowned for her role as Roxie Hart in *Chicago*, and Marcus Graham from television's *Jack Irish*. But as roles go, one of the most interesting is that of the Emcee, a somewhat ghoulish character who has been described as a "devil-doll host". Integral to the story, he is Riff Raff to Rocky or Che to Evita and in the new Australian production is played by Paul Capsis.

"I had dreamed about doing this role," says Capsis. "There are roles you long to do and sometimes it's a bit obvious, but because the Emcee inhabits a dank, dark world, it's very hard to resist him."

Joel Grey won an Oscar for his portrayal. Alan Cummings sexualised the character in the '90s. Capsis' interpretation will be keenly anticipated.

"I've just read Joel Grey's book *Master Of Ceremonies*, which is brilliantly written. I was interested in what was going on for Mr Grey when he created the original Emcee on Broadway and how he found him. We are very different people, Mr Grey and I, but I imagine I shall bring my own lived experience into the role, with my own edge," says Capsis.

When Christopher Isherwood wrote the original story the world was on the cusp of massive political change – the rise of right-wing fascism in Europe. Aspects of the story seem reflected in the current state of the world, director Christo points out.

"It's a scary case of history repeating itself," he says. "Sure, the rise of Trump in America is an obvious parallel to the rise of Nazism but even in Australia we are witnessing a move to the political right and, still, we scratch our heads and think 'how?' This is a show that has the guts to examine the implosion of one of the world's greatest cities, Berlin, and one of the most progressive societies to have ever existed."

For some, theatre revivals may seem tedious but, as with recent productions such as *Angels In America* and *RENT*, *Cabaret* comes at a time when counterculture protest, freedom of speech and artistic license are needed more than ever.

MORE: Cabaret plays the Hayes Theatre in Sydney from January 9 and Athenaeum Theatre Melbourne from April 27. Go to: www.cometothecabaret.com.au

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Dear Diva

Mama's got something to say on your current situation!

Dear Diva,
My boyfriend and I have been together for over five years and so have many mutual friends. But when some of my friends from college came to town, he got very upset that I was spending so much time with them. I was surprised at his behavior.

Dear College Catch-up,
Your man was probably just feeling a little neglected. After the friends leave, arrange a romantic evening and later fuck him like there's no tomorrow. He should be back to his old self in the morning. Fucking has a calming effect on most of us.

Dear Diva,
My mother can be a pain in the ass. She made some not-so-nice comments about a new sofa my boyfriend bought and he responded with some not-so-nice words. I don't want to be in the middle of this but I can't have my mom spoken to this way.

Dear Mama Drama,
Tell your man and your mother to play nice. Have a conversation with each of them and remind them both how much you love them. If they really love you they wouldn't want to see you get stuck in the middle of their petty drama and will work to be on their best behavior.

Dear Diva,
I've always wanted to write a novel. I used to write short stories and even won a poetry contest in high school. I told one of my friends about my goal of writing a novel and he was very discouraging. He thought the whole idea was silly. He ranted about how difficult it would be to get the book published and sell it with so much competition from more experienced writers.

Dear Dreamer,
Fuck that bitch. I hate it when miserable bitches try to destroy your joy and your dreams. This bitch didn't have the courage to fight for his dreams so now he is trying to sabotage yours. Cut his sorry ass out of your life. Congratulations to you for hanging onto your dream. Write and publish your book using services like Create Space or Smashwords. You can achieve anything you want in this life if you have a vision and the passion to see it through.

Dear Diva,
I don't have the perfect body but I do try to take care of myself and stay in shape. My boyfriend of 12 years has let himself go. He has gained over 30 pounds [nearly 14 kilos] in the last year with no end in sight. He has been out of work for over a year. Every night he sits in front of the television and stuffs his face. He is depressed that he has gained the weight but he is doing nothing to get rid of it.

> **Arrange a romantic evening and, later, fuck him like there's no tomorrow.**

Dear Fat Lover,
Your man needs to get the fuck off the couch and find a job. Tell that motherfucker that you can't continue to support the both of you. Since his hips have spread from all the binge eating you need to buy him a new suit for interviews because his old clothes won't fit. Once he gets a job you can get his ass in the gym. In the meantime, hide the Doritos. You also need to have a conversation with him about getting serious, professional counselling.

MORE: Robbyne Kaamil is a relationship expert on TV, radio, and at Playgirl.com. She is also an actress, comedian and singer. Find her on FB, Twitter@theadvicediva, and email your confidential Dear Diva questions to: asktheadvicediva@gmail.com.

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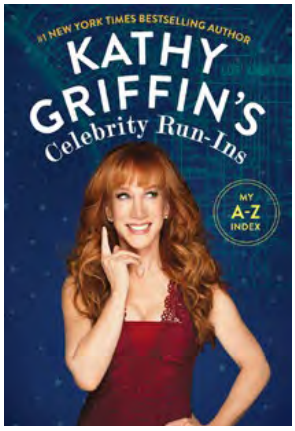
Plunge In!

OUR PICK OF
SUMMER'S BEST READS…

KATHY GRIFFIN'S CELEBRITY RUN-INS: MY A-Z INDEX

By Kathy Griffin



The unfiltered American comic who loves "her gays" is back with a new book that runs through her encounters with celebrities and files them in an A-to-Z format.

The book opens with Woody Allen, where we learn that he never missed an episode of *Hannah Montana,* through to Renee Zellweger and a case of mistaken identity. These encounters and reminiscences are brief, often only a page or two, and though many are delivered solely for their comic impact, others are genuine tributes to a star's talent or legend.

Given that Kathy's brand of comedy relies on her making fun of celebrities, her relations with some of the people she profiles is prickly at best. Case in point, Cathie Lee Gifford who considers her vulgar but, on top of that, the two are plagued by a name confusion issue with both called by each other's names too many times to count. This name confusion "reached a very surreal apex one August day in 2015 when I began receiving a string of cryptic tweets with a Christian tinge". Eventually Kathy deduced that Cathie Lee's husband Frank had passed away and legions of her fans were sending tweets to "a foul-mouthed, gay-friendly atheist… Tears were streaming down my face that day," Kathy writes. "I'll let you wonder whether they were from sadness or uncontrollable laughter."

If you are after an entertaining, amusing holiday read that serves up plenty of celebrity dish, look no further!

PINK INK: THE GOLDEN ERA FOR GAY AND LESBIAN MAGAZINES

By Bill Calder

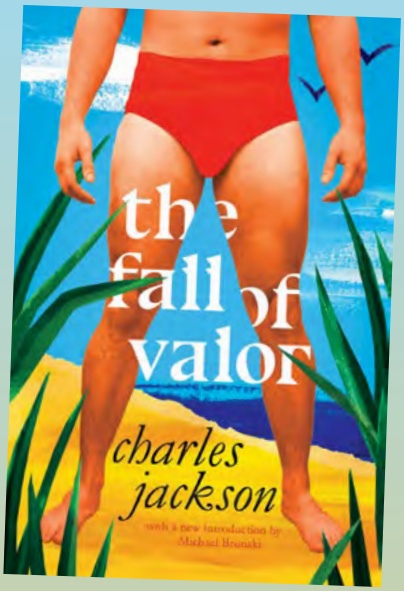
This lively and easy-to-read history recounts the story of how Australia's gay community changed from a clandestine world to one that held acclaimed parties and public festivals.

The story is told through the changing pages of the many magazines published since 1970. From the first male nude magazine *William And John* through to today's glossies such as DNA, the many and varied personalities who started these publications are brought to life.

Inspired by the Stonewall riots in New York – and a bottle of whiskey he shared with his neighbour Christabel Poll – John Ware took up the fight in 1970 for gay rights and started Australia's first gay magazine *Camp Ink*. Twenty-one-year-old Sydney man John Baker published *William And John* at the start of 1972 to amuse his party-set friends with information and entertainment. Pictures of nude men sold best, but it proved to be a short-lived enterprise as drugs and government censors wore him down.

Gay bar promoter, Rod Stringer launched *Campaign* in September 1975 and to survive had to negotiate the corrupt world of Sydney cops. Later Danny Vadasz founded a media empire that included the glossy magazine *OutRage*, newspapers such as *Melbourne Star Observer*, *Capital Q* and, in its fledgling years, *Sydney Star Observer*. He even published the porn magazine, *OutRage's Men* and the short-lived lesbian magazine *Lip*. However, his empire was fatefully taken over by the Satellite Group and collapsed soon after.

Each of these publishers and their magazines were central to the battles of their day around law reform, Mardi Gras, and the AIDS epidemic.



THE FALL OF VALOR By Charles Jackson

This reissued classic is from Valancourt Press, a small independent American publisher who specialise in the rediscovery of rare, neglected and out-of-print fiction, including an extensive range of gay fiction.

Jackson scored a major success with his autobiographical novel *The Lost Weekend* (1944), the story of a writer tormented by alcoholism, which sold more than half-a-million copies and was the basis for a now-classic Billy Wilder film (which omits all the novel's gay content).

Perhaps surprisingly, Jackson followed up that novel with another semi-autobiographical story, *The Fall Of Valor* (1946), the searing tale of a marriage disintegrating, in part, because the husband is coming to terms with his homosexuality. It was controversial subject matter for the 1940s and some critics were too grossed-out by the very idea of homosexuality to even consider the book's literary merit. A horrified *Saturday Review* critic found "the idea itself shocking, even revolting".

The Fall Of Valor opens with John Grandin and his wife Ethel on their way to a seaside holiday in the hope of salvaging their marriage. But the vacation has the opposite result when Grandin meets, and falls in love with, a handsome young Marine captain.

Seventy years after it was first published, Jackson's novel still makes for compelling reading and, as historian Michael Bronski writes in the introduction to this new edition, it is strange that *The Fall Of Valor* fell into obscurity for so long instead of being recognised as a modern classic alongside some of its contemporaries like Norman Mailer's *The Naked And The Dead* and Gore Vidal's *The City And The Pillar.*

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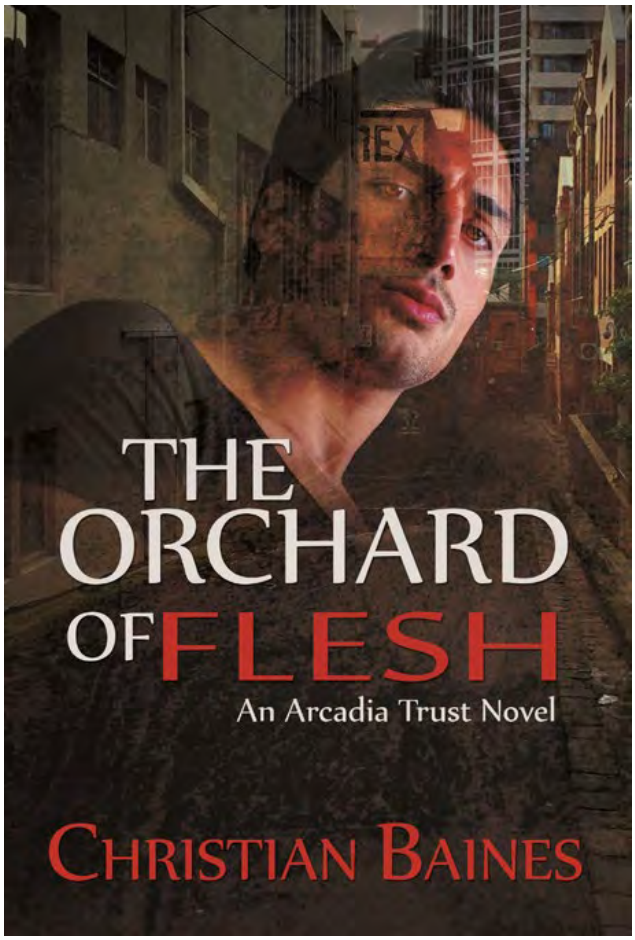


The Orchard Of Flesh

By Christian Baines

Like *The Beast Without*, the first book in the *Arcadia Trust* series, *The Orchard Of Flesh* takes the supernatural world of vampires, werewolves and ghouls out of the typical Victorian London or back-woods America, and drops it in the heart of modern day (night?) Sydney. But this is a darker Sydney than we're used to. Christian Baines mines the seedy, sexy, and dangerous aspects of the city's past, turning Oxford Street into an ideal and very recognisable feeding ground for vampires (or Blood Shades, as they're known in this highly original paranormal setting).

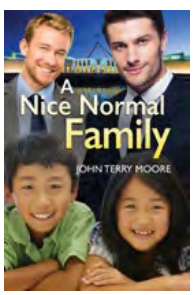
There is humanity in these beings and, yes, romance but there is also suspense, horror and a satisfying mystery, all imbued with a chilling sense of rising dread.

Both Reylan, the Blood Shade protagonist and his werewolf lover Jorgas are apex predators, still navigating their volatile relationship and learning who they can trust. Getting to know the rest of this colourful cast is half the fun, making *The Orchard Of Flesh* a gruesome delight for newcomers and returning *Arcadia Trust* readers alike.

> **There is humanity in these beings and, yes, romance but there is also suspense, horror and… a chilling sense of rising dread.**

A Nice Normal Family

By John Terry Moore



Like the author's first novel, *Black Dog*, this is another page-turning romance set in contemporary Australia but one that dares to imagine a gay man as the Prime Minister of the country, complete with a husband and children.

A Nice Normal Family traces the friendship between Jacko, who identifies as straight, and gay boy Sammy. They're best mates from a big regional town in Australia. Marriage equality has become a fact of life but not much else is equal because Jacko has a learning difficulty – dyslexia – and he relies on Sammy to help him through school and beyond.

Sammy realises very early in their friendship that Jacko has the special qualities that some famous dyslexics also exhibited, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Einstein and Sir Richard Branson. He tries to encourage Jacko to develop to his full potential and in the process, friendship turns to love…

How To Survive A Plague: The Inside Story Of How Citizens And Science Tamed AIDS

By David France

Some readers may recognise the title and the author's name as back in 2012 David France directed a documentary film *How To Survive A Plague* about the early years of the AIDS epidemic.

His film was extremely successful in terms of its critical response, being nominated for and winning a slew of prestigious awards including a nomination for Best Documentary Feature at the 85th Academy Awards. It was also nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance and was named by *The New York Times* as one of the five best documentaries of 2012. But before he became a film-maker, David France was an investigative journalist (and senior *Newsweek* editor) with an interest in LGBT subjects.

His previous book *Our Fathers* explored the Catholic sexual abuse scandal in the United States. Now France has written a book on the same subject as his film and it was published by the prestigious Random House imprint Knopf to coincide with World AIDS Day 2016. Like the film, it too is enjoying an exceptional critical response. It was listed on *The New York Times* Notable Books of 2016. Although only just published, there seems no doubt that this will be the non-fiction book of 2017 for gay readers – although the acclaim and media attention it is receiving will ensure that it crosses over to a much broader readership.

MORE: The Bookshop Darlinghurst specialises in gay and lesbian books. Phone (02) 9331 1103, email: info@thebookshop.com,au, visit online at www.thebookshop.com.au, or in person at 207 Oxford Street, Sydney.

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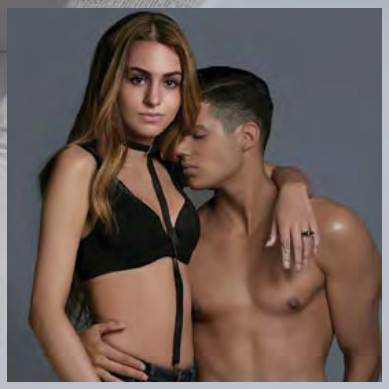
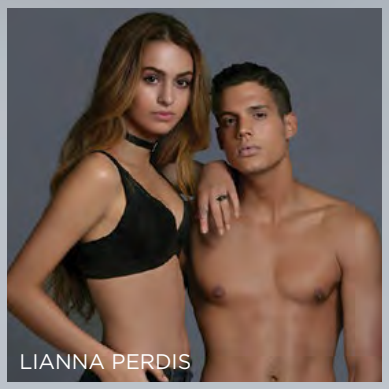




LIANNA PERDIS

PROUDLY AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED FAMILY BUSINESS. DESIGNED FOR AUSTRALIA

MELISSA LOUISE PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRM AND FRUITY

THIS MONTH, JORDAN'S PISTACHIO AND CRANBERRY BISCOTTI

INGREDIENTS:

1 3⁄4 cups of plain flour
1⁄2 tablespoon of bicarb soda
3⁄4 cup of caster sugar
60g of butter, melted
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
2 eggs, beaten
1 cup of cranberries
1 cup of pistachios

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees.
2. On a clean table, sift flour, caster sugar and bi carb, and make a well in the centre of the flower mixture. In the centre of the well add the, butter, vanilla essence and beaten eggs.
3. With a fork to start (and your hands eventually), gradually whisk the ingredients to make a sticky soft dough. To the dough mixture, add the cranberries and pistachios, knead the dough and make sure all ingredients are well combined.
4. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and let it rest in the fridge for 30 minutes.
5. Once rested, remove the dough from fridge and cut into two. Roll both lots of dough into logs with your hands and place on a large baking tray with baking paper.
6. Place the baking tray in the oven for 30 minutes or until the dough has browned. Once cooked remove from oven and set aside to cool.
7. When the large biscuits have cooled, start slicing the log with a serrated knife, chopping the log into 1.5cm increments on a 45-degree angle.
8. Once the biscuits have been sliced, place them back on the baking tray and continue to cook them for a further 10-15 minutes or until golden all the way around.
9. Remove from oven and let the biscuits cool. Enjoy!

MORE: Get *The Gay Chef* free from jordanbruno.org and donate to one of his LGBTI charity recipients while you're there.

VISIT JORDAN'S SITE

PHOTOGRAPHY
STUDIO CHRISTIAN SCOTT

NUTTIER THAN A SQUIRREL TURD

(HERE'S WHAT THE HATERS HAVE BEEN SAYING...)

Compiled by Torsten Hojer

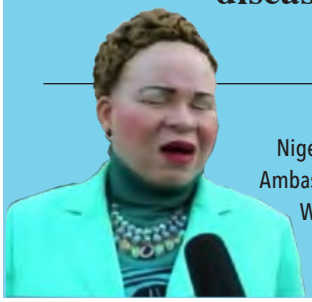
"The Rainbow Jihad's bloodlust is insatiable… They seek destruction… they intend to overrun the land, choke the life out of it, and leave it for dead… Taking our country back from the forces of darkness will require a D-Day-like effort of cleansing and reconstruction."

American ultra-conservative Christian talk show host Steve Deace on LGBT "militant activists".

"We are threatening the sanity of – and, yes, I'm going to say it – normal children. It's time to put an end to this nonsense."

– *British Daily Mail* columnist Sarah Vine criticises a new book about LGBT-inclusive school education, *Can I Tell You About Diversity.*

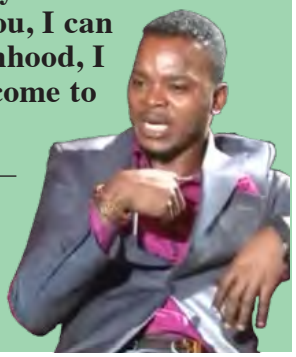
"Many Nigerian youths, especially those involved in illegal economic migration, have fallen prey to homosexual practices. Many Nigerian youths abroad are now becoming gay because of economic inducement, either to legalise their documents or to get jobs and they bring back diseases like HIV/AIDS to the country."

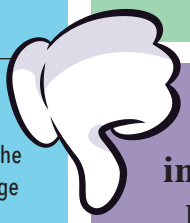


Nigeria's Consul General in South Africa, Ambassador Uche Ajulu-Okeke, speaking at the World Congress On Families And Marriage in Cape Town.

"If you do not like the looks of any part of your body, come to me… If you want big buttocks I can do it for you, I can help. If you have a small manhood, I can change them all when I come to the spiritual realm."

Anti-gay Ghanaian Bishop Daniel Obinim says he can enlarge parts of a man's body via the "power of God". He does this by "massaging" his parishioners' "manhoods".





"It is a demonic spirit not only inside of the lesbian couple who are pretending to get married in this TV commercial, but now influencing and ruling in the hearts of the ad executives who have decided… that they should promote this as a good thing to all of America. They are deceivers, they are fooling the America public and we need to expose that as wrong."

US Republican Gordon Klingenschmitt suggests that ad makers who used a same-sex couple in a jewellery commercial are possessed by evil spirits.

"For any Christian who wants to spend hard-earned dollars with family-friendly, Christian-affirming retailers, restaurants and service providers, the list is growing shorter all the time. There's Target… selling gay pride T-shirts a few years back was bad enough, but Target is now 'proudly standing' with homosexuals and cross-dressers who want to change America's 1964 Civil Rights Act to add 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'."

American anti-gay activist Linda Harvey complaining that there's nowhere left for her to shop.

PARTY PILL POPPING

IT'S SUMMER, THE PARTY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL SEASON. THAT MEANS DANCING ALL NIGHT AND DAY AND THE NEED TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT PARTY PILLS, SAYS DR ZAC.

HOSPITAL admissions across Australia have soared over the past few years with Ecstasy and MDMA overdoses. The reality is that more and more people – especially young people – are risking their lives, and sometimes dying, because they don't know what they're taking.

When talking to people at festivals and in hospitals, it's clear that even though people acknowledge that taking drugs isn't safe, it doesn't stop them. Australia has the world's highest number of regular Ecstasy and MDMA users per capita. New South Wales has one of the world's highest hospital admission rates for party pill overdoses, doubling in the past five years.

A pill now costs around $20, which is a lot cheaper than alcohol prices at festivals, and can keep you high for up to four hours. The overdose issue stems from the inconsistency of the strength of pills. Those tested have ranged between five and 60 percent purity, and they have been getting stronger over the past few years. This huge range in purity is the difference between needing to take one or several pills for the same effect, or getting a strong one that tips you over the edge into overdose territory.

From a public health perspective, one of the great initiatives proposed has been drug testing kits. These can give festival goers and party-pill poppers some awareness of what they're taking. However, this has been met with a massive backlash from the NSW government, including the Premier, who have warned that anyone taking a drug testing kit to a party would be stopped, searched and arrested on the spot. This is a disappointing stance when it's obvious that our continued "a war on drugs" has failed.

Former Australian Federal Police commissioner Mick Palmer and former Premier Bob Carr are both in support of drug testing kits. In my opinion, the politicians who take a "tough stance" on drugs do so because it's an easy vote winner, despite the overwhelming evidence that prohibition has failed. Portugal and the Netherlands, for example, have implemented policy reforms that are seeing massive reductions in their drug addiction and overdose rates.

The new EZ-Test kits that are available and will, hopefully, be made legally accessible at festivals could make some big differences. The Harm Reduction Group is made up of doctors and medical professionals who see the young lives lost and destroyed as the result of an overdose. It seems crazy to me that any government or law-enforcement body wouldn't support such a group who are proposing proven, tried-and-tested harm reduction strategies.

A pill tester costs between $7 and $60 depending on the number of uses. They come with a testing tube where a small amount of the pill is broken off (about the size of the head of a matchstick) and dropped inside. The liquid within then changes colour depending on what is in the pill and can be compared to a colour scale. You can see for yourself what you might actually be taking.

There are several drug testing kits and I suggest that if you're buying pills this summer that you buy more than one. The ones I would suggest are the general testing kit, which will tell you roughly what is in the pill, and the MDMA and Ecstasy-specific tests, which will tell you the strength/purity of the pill. You can make an informed decision about whether or not to take it, and hopefully it'll help keep you alive and on the dance floor.

This could be a way to keep yourself and your friends that bit safer over summer.

MORE: Dr Zac Turner (MBBS RN Bsc) can be contacted at www.drzac.co

> **If you are buying party pills this summer I suggest you also buy more than one drug testing kit…**

A NIGHT IN THE RED LIGHT

MARCO MARCO REVEAL HOT NEW LOOKS WITH A FEW DRAMATIC TWISTS.

When Marco Marco decide to put on a fashion show you know it's going to be full-on! Guests arriving for *A Night In The Red Light* entered to find LA's The Globe Theatre transformed into a sultry red cabaret room, glowing intriguingly, and hinting at the seductive night of entertainment ahead.

Before a single model hit the runway, guests were treated to pole artists who perfectly blended sexuality and sensuality through acrobatic dance. Next, aerialists took to the air, rising high above the runway on a large hoop in a terrifying but beautiful show of breathtaking strength and flexibility – and even a hint of romance.

Singer and Australian drag queen Courtney Act performed a beautiful acoustic version of *Roxanne* – what better song for a red-light theme? Act's Drag Race alumni Shangela was next, twirling, flipping and pumping the audience up for some sexy Marco Marco fashion to come. There's nothing like a contagious personality and a few death-drops to get people cheering.

Then… fashion time! Marco Marco's gorgeous men strutted down the runway in sexy new underwear styles from this edgy brand. Models including Murray Swanby, Laith Ashley, Daniel Ratcliffe and Jason Wimberly showed off their assets in custom designs featuring bright colours, geometric shapes, and a bit of sparkle to catch the light at the end of the runway. The crowd cheered as each model glided towards them – they were even more enthusiastic to watch them turn and walk away.

For the first time, Marco Marco's show included cis-gendered women on the runway in custom couture, along with the usual diverse cast. Among them was Canadian actress Jacqueline Wood.

With the models and audience exhausted, there was one more surprise in store – *Drag Race All Stars 2* winner Alaska Thunderfuck 5000 sashayed onto the stage accompanied by a crew of hot, vogueing boys. They transformed the space into a good, old-fashioned ball, Alaska treated the audience (which included Carmen Electra, Brooke Candy and Teen Mom's Farrah Abraham) to an energetic rendition of her latest hit, *Puppet*.

The curtain call brought back the star-studded cast of models and performers and Marco himself appeared, his relief, pride and happiness at the success of the show was palpable behind his masked face.

MORE: Catch the show on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdafDSTaZ1w

Alaska Thunderfuck 5000 and vogue boys.

Shangela.

SEE THE WHOLE SHOW!

Marco and Vivian Hart.

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Golden Boy

PHOTOGRAPHY ISOUL STUDIOS
MODEL CALUM WINSOR

Regular DNA readers will recognise Calum Winsor from a previous shoot in which we recalled the glory days of Physique Photography. This month, the golden Aussie boys makes the cover. Enjoy!

Calvin Klein

PRIVATE STRUCTURE

CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMANDO!

From war zones and red carpets to hosting *The Today Show* with brother Karl, Peter Stefanovic has seen more than your average journalist. He tells Matt Myers about life in the firing line.

DNA: Your book *Hack In A Flak Jacket* tells of some pretty harrowing experiences. Was there ever a time where you thought, "Oh shit! I'm packing it in?"

Peter Stefanovic: No, never. There were a couple of times where I thought, "Oh shit!" because we got too close to a missile, but never to pack it in. There was so much adrenaline involved and it was a great real-life thrill ride.

Your flak jacket was never hit, yet you were injured back home in the Channel Nine car park! Is that true?

[Laughing] Yes. We had the *Top Gear* guys in with these motorised three-wheel bicycles. I've never been good on motorbikes but I decided to get on because I thought it'd be fun. As soon as I took off my leg got jammed between the exhaust pipe and the metal frame and I cut it open. I went back to the news desk to do an update and could feel the warm trickle of blood running down my ankle. I lifted up my suit pants and there was a big gaping wound! So I went to the hospital and got stitched up. That never happened to me as a correspondent!

The Paris attacks, the Haiti earthquake, a royal birth, Michael Jackson's funeral… you've seen it all. Are there experiences that stay with you more than others?

Yes. In Haiti there were a couple of children who I think about… most days actually. They had been "pancaked" in their home by a building that fell on top of them. I saw them in a makeshift hospital that had been set up by Doctors Without Borders. Atina, a nine-year-old girl, was howling because she was getting a full-body cast placed on her; she had so many broken bones. I reached down and held her arm thinking it might be of some comfort and she just looked at me and stopped screaming. It was kind of a nice moment. Then there was Ferguson, a seven-year-old who had both legs amputated. He woke up while I was there and there wasn't even a tear. He just wanted to go home, but his didn't have a home and his parents were dead. These things really put other things in perspective. You learn a lot about life in those places, especially in developing countries where all this nasty stuff

WHO WOULD YOU TURN GAY FOR?

"Oh, Chris Hemsworth is so damn handsome! So is Hugh Jackman, and both are just really nice guys. Nice people are the best, and in many cases they happen to also be Australians! When I was a correspondent in the US I interviewed Hugh a fair bit. He was so generous with his time, so entertaining, informative and nice! He can do it all – song and dance man, serious actor and can hold an intelligent conversation. Hugh Jackman is my kind of man!"

seems to happen. But it's the world's poorest nations that often have the most generous people with a great outlook on life.

For the LGBTI community, the Orlando massacre was like a stab to our hearts. Did you have to report on that story?

No, I was back in Australia on *The Today Show*, but one of the US correspondents covered it. There have been too many of these mass killings and they keep happening. In America you have a country that is resistant to change its gun culture and as long as that doesn't change these things are going to happen. People from all kinds of communities are going to be affected. No matter who the victims are, we all feel it.

How close do you think Australia is to legalising same-sex marriage?

I hope it's just around the corner because that's what's right. Frank Ocean sang a lyric in one of his songs, "I don't believe that marriage should be between man and woman, it should be between love and love," and I like that lyric because I feel it's correct.

We all love Frank.

And I love his music. It's rare for a mainstream hip-hop artist to come out, but he was the first big name in recent years.

Who is your music diva?

I know my brother said George Michael and I'd probably agree with that because when we were growing up we used to listen to his album *Listen Without Prejudice* all the time.

You were, in fact, listening without prejudice?

Yeah, absolutely. We grew up in Cairns and there weren't many people around who were listening to George Michael. In fact, we might have been it! But that doesn't matter, we enjoyed it.

Have you ever been mistaken as gay?

I think some of my friends thought I was gay because I never dated that much. I was so focused on work, which always came first for a long time. Because I didn't have a girlfriend I think people assumed I was gay. But it didn't really concern me and I took it as a compliment.

What's your porn name? (The name of your first pet and the street you grew up in.)

My first pet was Rocky and my street was Summit, so Rocky Summit. That doesn't sound too bad, hey?

Does that mean that you and Karl have the same porn name?

No, because Karl's older than me and there were a few other pets before I came along. I think he had a dog named Red before Rocky, so his porn name may very well be Red Summit, but I think mine sounds way better!

When you arrived home from overseas, you were greeted by a flash-mob of screaming girls. Please explain?

That was my brother, again. Karl's never too far away in my life. He hired a band and a rent-a-crowd for when I came home in 2015. I arrived feeling a bit tired and noticed something was odd when the Qantas flight attendants were escorting me to the airport exit. I thought, "This is really great service." Then, low and behold, when the doors opened, a band started up, there were "Welcome Home Pete" signs with the crowd and cameras. When I look back it's pretty funny. I've got to hand it to him.

You recently became engaged to *Today* host Sylvia Jeffreys, and you're moving to *60 Minutes*. It looks like a busy year ahead.

I'm looking forward to *60 Minutes*. Growing up, I watched the show and thought they had the most amazing adventures. I always thought it would be great to work there. It means more travel, but I'll get to use the experience I've learned over the years as a correspondent.

This is our travel issue. What's your favourite place to visit?

I really enjoy European countries because my family is European and I lived in England for five years. I love going back to America, too, because I lived there for three years. All these places feel like home and I know it's a cliché but I love Paris, and the big European cities such as Berlin and St Petersburg. I love the Middle East, too. There's a wild kind of energy there, with a strong and interesting history. Beirut is one of my favourite cities. It's the Paris of the Middle East with a beautiful culture, and it's parked on the Mediterranean.

Who's the most famous person you've met?

Over the years I've interviewed a lot of A-listers doing the celebrity beat in Los Angeles, but I met the Queen and Prince Phillip when I was invited to Buckingham Palace. The Queen has a very strong handshake! I dropped my pavlova on the red carpet, leaving a big stain. I was kind of roused on by the minders. I guess I was so bloody nervous and excited to meet the Queen.

Your brother Karl also did this interview and we called him Current Affairs Cowboy. Surely you're the Current Affairs Commando?

I'll buy that! Current Affairs Commando works!

Speaking of commando… jocks, fitted boxers or commando?

I'm a boxer briefs man. I like some tight comfort.

Especially working on the frontline!

That's right!

MORE: *60 Minutes* is on Channel Nine on Sundays. *Hack In A Flak Jacket* is available online and in stores.

THE PRINCESS TRAVEL DIARIES

"I have always known my partner was a bit of a princess," says Mathieu Cordonnier, long-suffering boyfriend of DNA's Grooming Guru, Will Fennell. But will backpacking together on a budget bring out the princess in them both?

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY MATHIEU CORDONNIER
PHOTOGRAPHY WILL FENNELL

Let's be honest, Will is not a natural traveller. When I mention dinner at a friends' place who doesn't live within the gaybourhood he asks me if he needs his passport. And don't even get me started on public transport. If I even dare mention the words "bus" or "train" I get a face not unlike Rihanna's when watching Taylor Swift accepting yet another American Music Award.

So, when I suggested to Will, "Let's go backpacking for a year," he raised his left eyebrow and smirked, which I can only translate as, "Baby, I love you, but not that much."

To his credit, he did ask me what backpacking meant before saying no.

After a year of relentless whining (I'm French, so it wasn't that tedious. Whining is a bit of a national sport in my country), and the promise of a complete The North Face backpacking outfit "make-over", he finally agreed.

Six months later and after selling our life's possessions on Craigslist to finance the adventure we were on our way to Sydney airport to start our voyage. The plan was simple. First we would head to Southeast Asia, then make our way to Europe and spend Christmas with my family in France, and travel onwards from there.

The rules were simple. One year, tight budget, low-cost flights, public transport, communal dorms in cheap backpackers' hostels and cover as much of Asia and Europe as we could. In a nutshell, we would live out of a backpack for over a year.

When Will started listing the beauty "essentials" he refused to live without, I laughed to myself and thought, "Girlfriend, whatever you want, but I ain't gonna carry your shit."

Needless to say, upon our departure his backpack weighed 2.5kg more than mine and he was already asking me to carry stuff for him! Simple… in French we say, "Non!" >>

Matt attempts his casual sexy thing. Is he succeeding, readers?

INDONESIA: THE BEGINNING

>> I'd started selling the dream by making him watch *Eat, Pray, Love* and, as a result, we decided that the first stop would be Ubud in Bali. We were both dreaming of the pristine rice paddies and laid-back atmosphere as depicted in the movie. That's how it was when I had experienced it ten years ago.

Little did we know that Ubud had become a victim of its own success. Of course, the rice paddies are still there but the laid-back atmosphere and the quiet vibe we expected were definitely M.I.A. This once quiet little town famous for its yoga retreats and art galleries has become overrun by tourism. The two weeks we intended spending there turned into a few short days and we quickly made our way back to Seminyak for a couple of nights – sampling the local gay bars, mostly.

Kuta, Legian and Seminyak are at the heart of the action on the island of Bali and are as famous for their vibrant nightlife as they are for their beautiful beaches. It is busy – some would say too busy – loud and exciting. If you ever make your way there, don't miss the world-class sunset from Kuta Beach, while sipping a few cocktails.

After a few relaxing days and not-so relaxing nights out, Will's introduction to real public transport began. We left at 5am for a nine-hour trip that included two minivan rides on tortuous roads and a four-hour trip in a boat on the high seas. We were headed to Lombok to climb Mount Rinjani.

The trek up the volcano, peaking at 3,700 metres, would take us three days and two nights. I'll quickly mention the part where I got food poisoning the night before the trip to Lombok, lost my phone on the boat and ripped my shorts in rage – I blamed their large pockets for the loss.

It took some serious self-control not to react when the boyfriend asked me, after all my troubles, standing half naked with the ripped shorts in hand, if he could take a photo of me, saying, "Who's the princess now?"

Later, in the middle of the night, the gloating boyfriend woke me up screaming (squealing, really) because, according to him, a rat the size of a schnauzer was eating our provisions for the trek that he had stored on the bedside table. I obviously couldn't resist. While I was chasing that cute little mouse around the room, Will was on the bed trembling like an elephant in a cartoon. "There is justice in this world… princess," I remarked, casually.

After a good night's sleep (for me anyway, Will kept fearing Mickey Mouse would return for his

croissant), we got up to start the climb. The first day, nine hours of steep walking, got us to Base Camp One at some 2,700 metres, where we spent the night in our tent. The following day required a very early start – 3am – to climb the remaining 1,000 metres to the summit, in the dark, on a very steep and narrow path made of volcanic rocks and sand. We arrived at the summit in time to watch the sun rise over the Indian Ocean. I promise, this is a view we will never forget.

The rest of the day, as well as day three, were even more difficult. At one point I asked Will if he was enjoying the experience. He removed his earphones and gave me the death stare. Only vintage pop music blasting direct into his ear was getting him though: Kylie's *Locomotion*, I believe. It was hard, but worth all the effort.

Following the trek, we took a boat to the Gili Islands. The archipelago, composed of three tiny islands small enough to walk around in less than two hours, is famous for partying and beautiful beaches. As soon as we got to the first island, the boyfriend put his foot down. Actually, it would be more correct to say he had a tantrum, and insisted we blow the budget and book into a proper resort. After three days of walking up and down in the wilderness, no toilets, questionably weatherproof tents and dodgy smelling sleeping bags, I didn't put up much of a fight. So we spent four days in a nice hotel, private room, king-size bed, daily housekeeping and air-con.

Finally, after a month on the road, it felt like a holiday. The following week was spent sunbathing, snorkelling and sipping cocktails watching amazing sunsets. Well, less than a week if you include the first two days spent in bed with legs so sore we could barely move.

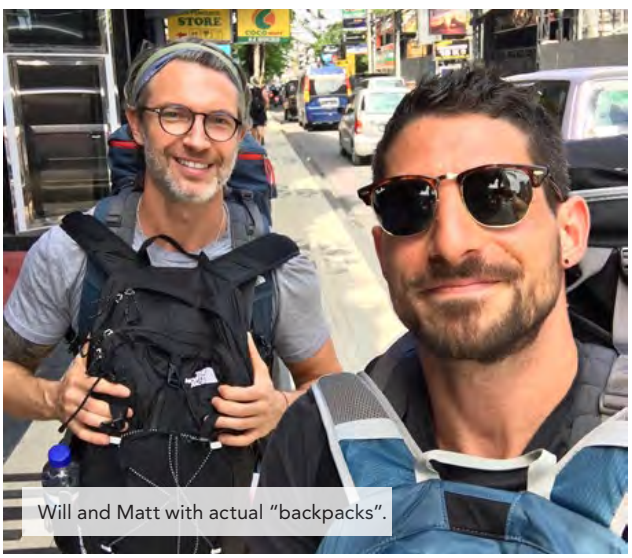
Once we were back on our feet, quite literally, we headed back to Bali to take our flight to Thailand, the second stop on our year-long backpacking adventure.

The Princesses Travel Diaries will be continued.

MORE: Find Mathieu Cordonnier on Instagram @mat_cordo

Mount Rinjani at dawn: worth the hike.

"The rules were simple. One year, tight budget, low-cost flights, public transport, communal dorms in cheap backpackers' hostels…



Will and Matt with actual "backpacks".

The torn shorts: who's a princess now?

BALI MUST-DO LIST:

- Enjoy a cocktail while watching the sunset from La Plancha in Seminyak.
- Visit Bali Joe, the busiest gay bar on the island.
- Trek Mount Rinjani to the summit.
- Sunbathe, relax and drink on the Gili Islands.

USEFUL TIPS:

- Get the *Lonely Planet* travel guide, *Southeast Asia On A Shoestring*. It's full of good recommendations and advice on how to travel through Indonesia.

- Eat street food as often as you can. Chances are, you won't get food poisoning (which I got from a proper restaurant) and it's yummier and cheaper.

- No need to look for dorms. Accommodation is cheap in Indonesia, even when travelling solo. Single rooms are very affordable.

- Avoid local alcohol. Whatever you drink, insist on top-shelve or famous brands. This will limit the magnitude of your hangover.

AM I F*CK-ABLE?

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE. YOUR ATTRACTIVENESS TO OTHERS ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE SIZE OF YOUR PECS. YOUR EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING COUNT, TOO. BUT BUILDING A BETTER BODY CAN HELP KICK START THE JOURNEY.

One of the most challenging things I've ever done was be completely honest with myself about my insecurities. Often it's not until we've reached breaking point, where you have no choice, that we examine our lives in this way. That's certainly how it was for me.

It was only by taking that scary, first step of self-reflection, and then making a commitment to daily, diligent work, that I was able to pull my self-esteem out of the rubbish bin. I was able to change the recurring negative soundtrack playing in my head that told me things like, "I am not worthy of receiving, I am not loveable, I am not good not enough."

These negative thoughts are the result of faulty programming during early years of emotional development. They can lead us to choosing emotionally unavailable or abusive partners, bad sex, and drug and alcohol dependence that distracts us from our dark feelings and emotions. We'd rather be running life in the fast lane, stoned off our tits and in chaotic relationships with people who treats us like shit, than be alone in silence, feeling depressed and dead inside.

I hope you are reading this before you have reached that desperate point, but I'm conscious you may have already arrived. If so, welcome brother. You and I are on this journey together. You're not alone. I'm right behind you. Pain and growth are inversely related, so congratulations on reaching your highest growth point disguised as your greatest pain. This is where your story can change if you're willing to take the step.

Part of being human is accepting what we consider to be our deficits, and being comfortable knowing we are not good at everything. No one is. We all have different skills and qualities we can be proud of and we all have weaknesses that make us unique and human. It's vital that we catch ourselves from using shameful talk in the daily chatter taking place in our heads. We can be our own worst enemy, constantly putting ourselves down.

So, right now I want to challenge you. Look at yourself in the mirror. What do you see? Be completely naked, physically and emotionally, and ask yourself the absolute truth. Am I worthy of happiness? Am I loveable? And am I fuck-able? The answer to all of the above is yes, but if you're standing there with your self-worth in the gutter, then read on.

At this point we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work on you, so that we can fast track getting your pants down around your ankles!

Getting to a healthy state of mind is multilayered. It requires work on the inside and out to be completely whole and happy. I'm a firm believer in working evenly on these three facets of health: physical, mental and emotional.

> **We need to roll up our sleeves and get to work so we can get your pants down around your ankles!**

In this piece, I want to focus on the easiest of the three to control – the physical. It's the easiest because it's tangible. You can physically control lifting a weight. You can physically control the foods you put in your mouth.

Mental and emotional development requires that your beliefs change, and I'm not qualified to assist with that. If you feel you need to make those changes I recommend you find a professional counsellor and the best place to start is with your GP or a phone counselling service. But I can help you build the physical strength that will help grow your esteem and in turn help build that inner strength.

The beauty of building your physique is that it will have a positive carry-over affect on your mental and emotional life. These three areas have a close relationship and speak to each other, so when we improve one we improve all.

Let's have a closer look at how this works. When we improve our body image we begin to feel good about ourselves via two pathways: by what we see in the mirror, and in the simple fact that we're making good progress. The compliments we receive from friends and external validation from others helps us begin to think differently about ourselves. It may sound superficial but who cares if it works to improve self-esteem? People see a new energy in you, a new confidence in the way you walk, talk, how you carry yourself and interact. This will make people naturally gravitate toward you and want to be around you. You will be more attractive to them, which then elevates your "market value".

Once it was about the guy you fucked being the trophy – now, all of a sudden, you realise that *you* are the trophy. I want to provide you with some simple mind-set tools you can use to make yourself more fuck-able today!

So, are you ready to become more fuck-able? Find out more and join me on Projectgetlaid.com. See you there.

MORE: Connect with Justin at Projectgetlaid.com or The Alpha Plan (www.thealphaplan.com)

If this story has raised issues for you, contact: Lifeline Australia Tel: 13 11 14.

Beyond Blue Australia: 1300 22 4636 beyondblue.org.au

Make an appointment with your GP.

Google: "Professional counselling in my area"

AM I F*CK-ABLE? CHECKLIST

1. STOP PEOPLE PLEASING

If you're a natural people-pleaser and constantly put others ahead of yourself, *stop!* No one respects a pushover. You lose your power and your sex appeal immediately. Know and own your worth. You're better than being treated as someone's doormat

2. WRITE DOWN 10 THINGS YOU RESPECT AND ADMIRE ABOUT YOURSELF

They have to be simple: no over-the-top stuff your subconscious doesn't believe. They have to be personal, meaning, they cannot have anything to do with helping or pleasing someone else. They must be positive. "I'm really good at bullying workmates," doesn't count. Find your 10 positive attributes and read them every morning and night out loud. You are talking to the little boy who never felt lovable or valued. If you struggle finding 10, refer to the footnote at the end of this story.

3. LIVE LIFE ON YOUR TERMS

Identify your non-negotiable values and begin living by them. Being swayed by external influences or people will only talk negatively to your integrity. If it isn't deeply true for you, then don't do it. Stick to your guns and live on your terms. You are on this planet for you. Let's live that way. Being a man of integrity is sexy!

4. HAVE SELF RESPECT

The fact that you are on this planet makes you a miracle, end of story. You are worthy of being treated with respect. That starts with you in order for others to follow. Brush your teeth, do your hair, dress proud, smell good and rock the streets like you have a pair. People will treat you how you treat yourself. Let's step up our game here.

5. COMMIT TO DAILY DILIGENT WORK

Changing thoughts and beliefs is a physiological process that requires a neural pathway reroute in the brain. It's like changing your morning ritual or any other habit. At first it requires conscious effort before it becomes built into your DNA. You'll feel discomfort initially, but that's part of healthy growth.

GO TO JUSTIN'S GET LAID WEBSITE

PHOTOGRAPHY
STUDIO CHRISTIAN SCOTT

THE FIRST... AT LAST!

Chansey Paech is 29, a proud Territorian and the first out gay Indigenous person elected to a parliament in Australia. "It's very exciting, and I wear it with pride," the new Labor MP for the huge Northern Territory electorate of Namatjira told DNA when we called to congratulate him. "It's an honour, and comes with a very big responsibility!" Interview by Matt Akersten.

DNA: What inspired you to get into politics?
Chansey Paech: For me, getting involve was very natural. My family have always been involved in what I call "black politics" – board membership of the local grassroots community organisations. My grandparents were big supporters of trade unions and the Labor movement. I saw the difference that Labor governments brought to the rest of the community when they were in power. I witnessed first hand the work Labor has done to improve living conditions for my people, and for all people living in the country.

Did you have heroes or role models from the Indigenous world or from the gay world?
Yes, an Aboriginal lady named Pat Turner played a strong role inspiring me. I've always been impressed with Senator [Penny] Wong, and think she's been a great role model for members of the LGBTI community.

Arriving in your new role as a local MP, has anything surprised you about politics so far?
Well, there ain't no party like the Labor Party! The people who work in this movement are passionate, committed and fun. But my time as a local member so far has been filled with memorable and important experiences. I'm very fortunate to have, both federally and in the NT, a group of Labor members who support equality in both the Aboriginal and LGBTI contexts, and care about the living conditions of people in rural and remote locations.

You've got a huge electorate. Tell us about Namatjira and its people.
Namatjira is about the size of Germany. It has a population of between five to eight thousand, scattered vastly across the land mass. It's roughly around 75 to 77 per cent Indigenous. So I felt it was important to have Indigenous representation in the assembly, and that people understood the cultural connections to country. I wanted to make sure that as a government we were building capacity for people to make their own decisions, and play a role in shaping the future with self-determination.

As a member of the Northern Territory Parliament, whose seat is mostly a bush electorate, I'm constantly travelling vast distances to meet and listen to constituents and their concerns. I'm confident we will bring the issues of housing, health, education and the environment to the parliament. Economic

empowerment is also very important because it lays the foundations to ensure that my people – our First Nations people – continue the path to self-determination. It's critical.

Everyone must be included if we are to succeed as a nation. We need to make sure that, with everything we do, we look at how it affects the lives of all people. Fortunately, the Territory is quite an inclusive society. We must keep it that way and make sure we stay on track for a brighter future.

I'm quite a progressive person and I sit to the left in the factions of the Labor Party. My view is that as a nation we need to get with the times and have a contemporary approach to overcoming polices that exclude people for ridiculous reasons – which should never have been allowed to be considered or implemented.

Marriage equality remains an issue for me, and I intend to remain a vocal and a strong supporter of it in the Territory and nationally, but there are other issues as well.

Such as?

In some areas, lesbian and gay parents are able to foster children but not adopt. I want to make sure that I'm part of advocating for changes on a national stage. We've got a great opportunity to be bold and leave discriminating policies and laws for the history books.

The Federal Government is grappling with hate speech laws. What's your opinion on freedom of speech versus cracking down on racism and homophobia?

I still struggle to understand why people would want to water down those laws. They were put in place to ensure that attacks on a person or a group based on a range of attributes – gender, ethnic origin, race or sexuality – weren't allowed to happen. I don't support any view that would allow those kinds of things to be spoken. I don't tolerate it in my personal life, I don't tolerate it in my professional life, and I'm quite comfortable with calling it out whenever I see it happen. It's not okay.

During your campaign, did being gay ever become an issue?

Oh, yes, certainly. My sexuality wasn't an issue for me, and it wasn't an issue for my constituents, but it was an issue for other candidates. There was a bit of smearing and hate speech – "Don't vote for him because he's gay," which backfired because people in the community were saying, "We don't care that he's gay, we just want better houses and better resources."

What was it like coming out to your family, friends and local community?

Chansey with Northern Territory Chief Minister, Michael Gunner and MPs.

Well, I had always known I was gay. I came out in my late teens. I thought I'd better let people know. Of course, there's always a level of anxiety, but it's also a very rewarding experience. In the end, I knew this is who I am, and I'm not going to deny myself the right to live the life I want to live.

> **I am young, I am gay, I am black. I'm a true blue Territorian.**

I told my parents first, then my other relatives, and then my friends. For some of my family it was a relief. They said, "Thank God you've done it, we've been waiting." Others in my family needed to take a bit of time to process and work things out. But all-in-all it was a very positive experience. I've been fortunate to have an extended family who want me to have the same rights as everybody else. My mum is a very strong advocate of mine. Now she puts the pressure on me to find someone to settle down with and have a kid!

Do you have any advice for people about coming out?

Remember, there's always someone there, whether it's friends or family, or even organisations who are there to help members of our community do it. You never have to do these things alone.

Now that the plebiscite's been blocked, what do you think is the next step towards marriage equality?

It's our role as members of the state and territory legislators to make sure that the pressure continues to be put on the Federal Government. I'm still hopeful that, in the near future, the Labor party will work with the other members of the Parliament to put forward marriage equality legislation. It shouldn't be an issue in this day and age.

Lastly, no trip to Darwin is complete without a visit to Throb nightclub. Have you been?

I certainly have! I've kicked up my heels there once or twice. If you get the opportunity, it's definitely worthwhile. The Territory LGBTI community is a wonderful, inclusive, diverse community. They come in all shapes and sizes and colours. I'm very happy and proud to be part of that community.

And the future?

For me it's simple. As a member of Parliament I'm here to highlight the issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTI people, and people living in remote parts of the territory. I'm confident and I'm hopeful that more members of the LGBTI community – and young, gay Aboriginal people – will come into Australia's Parliament. I know a few already who would make fantastic representatives when they're ready to run.

Finally, will you be in Sydney for Mardi Gras?

Yes! I'm looking forward to walking in the Parade with a large Labor team from right across the country. I think that'll be very special. We'll be reassuring our communities, nationwide, that we're here and we're supportive of them!

MORE: You can keep up with the latest news from Chansey Paech on Twitter at @CPaech.

THE TWISTED GAY MAN WHO MADE DONALD TRUMP

On October 16, 1973 the public first met Donald J Trump with the headline "Major Landlord Accused Of Anti-Black Bias" splashed across the cover of the *New York Times*.

For the next two decades, Trump was represented by Roy Cohn, a closeted gay, right-wing lawyer who taught him all the tricks that would later help him lie, intimidate and bully his way into the US Presidency. Feature by Andrew M Potts.

A rare image of Cohn and Trump together, possibly at the opening of Trump Tower.

In 1973 a 27-year-old Donald Trump, fresh in the public eye, needed a lawyer and fast.

Managing his father's property empire of more than 14,000 apartments across the New York boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island had landed him in hot water with the US Justice Department over allegations that his company had violated the Fair Housing Act by discriminating against African-American renters.

After receiving complaints, the Justice Department had sent white and black "testers" to apply to rent apartments in more than a dozen buildings owned by the Trump Management Corporation and found that black applicants were either falsely told that apartments were no longer available when they applied to rent them or were offered different rental terms and conditions to whites.

"The government contended that Trump Management had refused to rent or negotiate rentals 'because of race and colour,'" the *New York Times* reported in October of that year.

"The company... had misrepresented to blacks that apartments were not available."

Trump's response to the charges? "They are absolutely ridiculous," he told the *Times*. "We never have discriminated, and we never would."

Trump had just 20 days to respond to the Justice Department's charges against the company. He turned to the notorious anti-communist witch-hunter turned New York power lawyer, Roy Cohn.

Trump first met Cohn at the exclusive Le Club on New York's East Side where both were members. Cohn advised Trump to hit back hard against the government with a countersuit demanding $100 million dollars – a ridiculous sum of money in the 1970s: over half-a-billion in today's dollars.

Cohn also called up the head of the Justice Department's civil rights division and demanded that the lawyer who had brought the case be fired. The threat was not well received, but they knew Trump and Cohn meant business now.

The judge eventually dismissed the countersuit as a waste of time and the Trump Management Corporation settled the case with the Justice Department two years later – but Trump avoided any admission of personal culpability in the agreement.

> **A lesser-known element… and one that harmed far more people was the witch-hunt conducted against homosexuals.**

Trump claimed the settlement as a victory to the *New York Times* because it did not require the Trump Management Corporation to "accept persons on welfare as tenants unless as qualified as any other tenant".

Forty-one years later, after winning the 2016 US election, Trump would claim another settlement as a victory – agreeing to pay $25 million to former Trump University students to avoid having to stand trial while holding the office of the President. Trump spun the settlement as a win on Twitter, claiming that the payout was only "a small fraction of the potential award," adding that he would have liked to continue fighting the case had he not won the election. In actuality, it's unlikely that the total pay-out to students would have been more than $15 million had he proceeded and lost the case.

Looking back over four decades, Tony Schwartz, the ghost writer of Trump's bestseller *The Art Of The Deal*, sees the 1973 case and his involvement with Cohn as a pivotal moment for Trump that shaped the man we see today.

"This is a classic example of where Trump begins to demonstrate something he talks about all the time today, which is that he's a counterpuncher," Schwartz told PBS' *Frontline* in July.

"Somebody comes after him and says that he's done something nefarious and horrible, and he just goes back at them with all guns blazing – you know, boom, boom, boom. And admits nothing, never admit anything, never say you made a mistake, just keep coming. And if you lose, declare victory. And that's exactly what happened there. He lost as clearly as you could lose but he loudly proclaimed his victory."

Three years later Trump was back in court after the Justice Department charged Trump Management for continuing to discriminate against black applicants and Cohn was by his side again.

Cohn told the *Times* that the case was "nothing more than a rehash of complaints by a couple of planted malcontents," while Trump claimed to be the victim, calling the investigation a "form of horrible harassment".

Cohn would represent Trump for thirteen years through the '70s and '80s, becoming his closest friend and advisor and, when needed, his attack dog. >>

>> Barbara Res, the construction engineer that Trump appointed to his signature Trump Tower development in Manhattan, recalls Trump keeping a black-and-white photo of Cohn's sneering face in a drawer in his office that he would use to intimidate people, telling them that if they didn't come to an agreement on his terms then that was the face they were going to be confronted with in court.

Cohn was quoted in his own obituary in the *New York Times* as saying of himself, "my scare value is high".

"My area is controversy. My tough front is my biggest asset. I don't write polite letters. I don't like to plea-bargain. I like to fight. You might want a nice gentle fight, but once you get in the ring and take a couple of pokes, it gets under your skin.

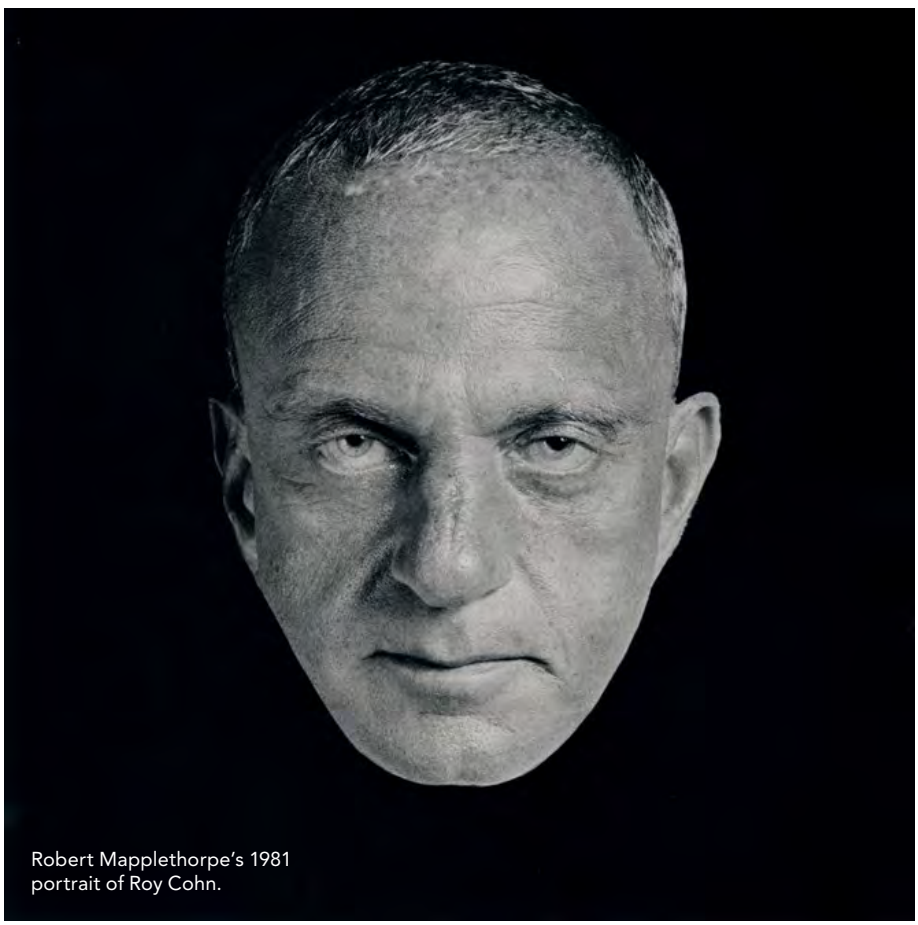
"It's fair to say that in an adversary situation I've got one role – to win for my client. Law is an adversary profession. But within the bounds which are permitted, most lawyers are Caspar Milquetoasts [a reference to a softly spoken cartoon character]. They don't realize that they are in a fight. To them, a lawsuit is nothing more than going to court, then going out to lunch with your adversary. To me it's serious business."

Cohn handled the prenuptial agreement for Trump's first marriage in 1977, though he advised Trump against getting married at all, saying it would only lead to "trouble" down the track. The contract stipulated that Ivana Trump would have to return any gifts that Trump gave her during their marriage were the couple to split and that she would only be entitled to $20,000 a year in alimony. After Ivana filed for divorce in 1991 and sued for a bigger share of Trump's wealth, Trump said that those terms had been Cohn's idea.

Cohn was not there to represent Trump in 1991. He died from an AIDS-related illness in August of 1986, and by then the relationship between mentor and protégé had soured.

Cohn had been at the February 1983 opening party for Trump Tower, Trump's first great business success and the one he built his reputation on, but Trump did not speak at the funeral of the man he had once publically called his "greatest friend". He just stood at the back of the room.

The New York artist and celebrity party crasher Richard Osterweil would later quip that those who had attended Cohn's funeral had done so "because they wanted to make sure he was really dead". In reality, the room was full of the great and powerful: relationships and connections Cohn had cultivated over nearly four decades in the glare of the public spotlight while living a double life in the shadows.



Robert Mapplethorpe's 1981 portrait of Roy Cohn.

BIRTH OF A COLD WAR WARRIOR

Cohn was born to an observant Jewish family in the New York borough of The Bronx on February 30, 1927, the only child of Dora and Albert C Cohn – the then-First Assistant District Attorney for Bronx County.

When Roy was just two years old Albert was appointed to the New York Supreme Court by Franklin Roosevelt. His father is remembered as a gentle and reserved man and it appears his mother was the bigger influence on Roy's young life.

Described as overbearing, when Roy attended his first summer camp she stayed in a nearby hotel the whole time. In turn, Roy would live with his mother in the family home until her death in 1967. Justice Cohn had died eight years prior.

Roy attended exclusive private schools in The Bronx before enrolling at Columbia College. Graduating from the Columbia Law School aged just 20, he had to wait until his 21st birthday before he could be admitted to the bar.

Cohn's father was influential in the Democratic Party and Cohn Senior used his influence to obtain a position for his son in the office of United States Attorney Irving Saypol in his Manhattan office.

The alliance between the United States and the USSR had quickly deteriorated following the end of World War II when it became clear that the Russians were not going to give up their military gains in Europe. At the start of the war the Communist Party of the United States of America boasted of a hundred-thousand members and by the 1950s still claimed as many as 50,000 members. In this growing Cold War between Russia and America, the fear of Soviet agents and their sympathisers on American soil became a source of great concern for the public and political leaders alike.

As an Assistant US Attorney under Saypol, Cohn was soon helping to secure convictions, and headlines, in a number of highly publicised trials of Soviet agents. Cohn prosecuted 11 members of the American Communist Party Politburo for preaching the violent overthrow of the US Government, and William Remington, a former Commerce Department employee who was

accused of being a Soviet asset by KGB defector Elizabeth Bentley.

However, perhaps the most high-profile case that Cohn was involved in while at the office of the United States Attorney was the trial and execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The Rosenbergs had been accused of being Communist agents and of receiving classified documents from the Manhattan Project that were of value to the Soviet nuclear weapons program. Their accuser, Ethel's brother David Greenglass, later claimed that he had lied in order protect himself and his wife Ruth, and that the prosecution had encouraged him to do so. Cohn later claimed that it was his personal recommendation to Judge Irving Kaufman that the couple be given the death penalty that had seen them sent to the electric chair – an accomplishment that he remained proud of for the rest of his life.

Cohn's involvement in the Rosenberg trial brought him to the attention of FBI director J Edgar Hoover who, history now suspects, was himself a closeted gay man and in a relationship with his second-in-command at the FBI, Clyde Tolson.

THE LAVENDER SCARE

Senator Joe McCarthy hired Cohn for his Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations on Hoover's recommendation, choosing him over future Democratic Presidential candidate and United States Attorney General, Robert Kennedy.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations was initially formed to look into corruption around World War II military contracts but, under Senator McCarthy's leadership, it quickly became a vehicle for investigations into espionage and subversion with a particular focus on Communists and homosexuals in the government.

In the mind of the American public in the 1950s, homosexuality and Communism were seen as intrinsically linked and as threats to the family and the American way of life.

On April 19, 1950, the Republican National Chairman Guy George Gabrielson warned that "sexual perverts who have infiltrated our government in recent years [are] perhaps as dangerous as the actual Communists".

In May that year a report in the *New York Times* estimated there could be as many as three-and-a-half thousand "deviates" working in branches of the federal government. Not only were homosexuals felt to be more likely to have Communist sympathies but they were viewed as easy targets for blackmail by Soviet agents and thus posed a greater security risk.

During this so-called "Lavender Scare" period, Cohn and McCarthy attempted to stir up further anti-Communist fervour in the US by claiming that overseas Communist agents had already convinced several closeted homosexual employees of the federal government to pass on secrets in exchange for keeping their sexuality under wraps.

By the end of the Democratic Administration of President Harry Truman, the US State Department reported that it had fired 425 employees over allegations of homosexuality.

The following Republican administration of President Dwight D Eisenhower went even further, signing Executive Order 10450 in April of 1953 that completely banned homosexuals from obtaining jobs in the federal government.

Homosexual panic was now a bipartisan part of American politics. Executive Order 10450 would stay in place until 1995 when it was replaced by President Bill Clinton with the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" under which the government would no longer actively seek to identify homosexual employees as long as they did not identify themselves.

> **Donald pisses ice water.**

Former US Senator Alan K Simpson wrote in the prologue of the 2013 book *Dying For McCarthy's Sins* that the homosexual victims of this period of American history have been severely forgotten in comparison to the other witch-hunt trials of McCarthyism such as the Hollywood blacklists of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

"The so-called Red Scare has been the main focus of most historians of that period of time," Senator Simpson wrote. "A lesser-known element… and one that harmed far more people was the witch-hunt McCarthy and others conducted against homosexuals."

THE SCHINE AFFAIR

During this same period, rumours about Cohn's own homosexuality began to stir when he showed a special interest in advancing the career of David Schine, a handsome blond student who had written a six-page anti-Communist pamphlet and had copies placed in every room in his family's chain of hotels.

The pamphlet drew the attention of *Time* magazine and Schine was introduced to Cohn through the newspaper columnist George Sokolsky. Cohn and Gerard David Schine were both Jewish New Yorkers who shared the same birth year and the pair became fast friends.

As McCarthy's chief counsel, Cohn brought Schine into McCarthy's office as an unpaid "chief consultant". The pair then embarked on a lavish, tax-payer funded, "research tour" of Europe in 1953.

Theodore Kaghan, Deputy Director of the Public Affairs Division in the Office of the US High Commissioner for Germany, labelled the pair "junketeering gumshoes" over the jaunt. In response, Cohn and McCarthy accused Kaghan of being a security risk.

Later that year Schine was drafted into the United States Army as a private and Cohn immediately began trying to apply his influence to have Schine promoted and given special privileges, such as being able to leave his military base at night and being exempted from being assigned overseas.

Cohn's actions provoked a push back from the Army and he was charged with using improper pressure to influence the army and an investigation was launched into the affair. Cohn hit back, claiming the Army was holding Schine as a kind of hostage in order to stop his Commission's investigations into Communists and their sympathisers in the armed forces.

The hearings were broadcast on television and resulted in Schine and Cohn appearing on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1954 under the banner "McCarthy And His Men".

There had been gay rumours about Cohn and McCarthy as well, with the playwright Lillian Hellman nicknaming the threesome "Bonnie, Bonnie and Clyde" after the infamous bisexual outlaws of the 1930s. Whether Cohn was successful in bedding Schine is debatable, and Schine went on to father six children before his death in a plane crash in 1996. But the Schine Affair was the beginning of the end of Cohn's career in government and he resigned from McCarthy's staff soon after the hearings.

However, leaving government and embarking on a career as a high-profile New York attorney with the firm that eventually became known as Saxe, Bacon And Bolan, Cohn did not lose his interest in politics.

Despite being a lifelong registered Democrat like his father before him he maintained close ties with political conservatism, serving as an informal advisor to both Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan and supporting Republican candidates in election races. >>

THE PRIVATE LIFE AND DEATH OF ROY COHN

Over the next 30 years Cohn represented figures as diverse as mafia bosses Tony Salerno, Carmine Galante and John Gotti, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, Studio 54 owners Steve Rubell and Ian Schrager, and the New York Yankees baseball club, to name a few.

Celebrity friends included Barbara Walters, Estée Lauder, Calvin Klein, Andy Warhol, Norman Mailer, Bianca Jagger, Rupert Murdoch and, of course, Donald Trump.

However, while Cohn would never publicly admit his homosexuality, there were a procession of handsome, much younger men that he would introduce at social gatherings during the '70s and '80s as "employees" of his law firm.

It is unclear at what age Cohn had become reconciled with his sexual orientation and began having relationships with men or whether those relationships were solely monogamous. A guest at one of his dinner parties in 1981 got the impression that both of the young "office boys" serving dinner were Cohn's lovers.

Later, in the early '80s, Roy introduced a man named Russell Eldridge to relatives as his "secretary." Eldridge was 20 years his junior and had been Cohn's errand boy for several years. Despite his youth, Eldridge soon became sick, losing 23kg, and in 1984 Roy paid for him to be cared for in a private suite overlooking Central Park as he slowly slipped away from AIDS. It's unknown if it was from Eldridge that Cohn contracted HIV and there are conflicting accounts of the nature of their relationship but, within a year, Roy would have his own diagnosis.

The most serious relationship in Cohn's life, and the one we know the most about, was his last. Cohn met Peter Fraser, a young, blond New Zealander with model looks at a party in Mexico. Fraser had left a small farming community aged 19 to travel the world, spending several years exploring the United States. Soon after meeting Cohn he moved into the six-story New York townhouse on East 68th Street where Cohn lived and worked.

Cohn began introducing Peter to his social circles and eventually even introduced him to the then-President of the United States and First Lady at a White House dinner. Cohn had taken to introducing Peter as his "office manager" by this stage of the relationship although they shared a bed.

"We went into a small room," Fraser later recalled in 1988, "Several people were milling there. Roy said, 'Why don't you come meet a friend of mine?' As I was walking over, I scuffed my shoe and the sole came off. I was dragging my foot so I wouldn't go flop-flop, and Roy said, 'I want you to meet the President and Mrs Reagan.' The President was very warm. He was probably so nice to me because he thought I was handicapped. This poor boy dragging his foot."

Cohn would receive the Americanism Award at a Washington reception later that year and be congratulated by President Reagan via video. But Ronald Reagan is remembered by history as the US president who dragged his heels in confronting the HIV epidemic – ignoring the problem as the bodies piled up in the absence of effective treatments for the virus.

It wasn't until a year after Cohn's death – and two years after Hollywood actor Rock Hudson's – that his administration would finally take the virus seriously by establishing the President's Commission on the HIV Epidemic. By that time 36,058 Americans had been diagnosed with HIV and 20,849 were already dead. The disease was in 113 countries, with more than 50,000 cases worldwide. The vast majority of those people would die from the virus.

> **Cohn was part of a clique of rich, white, conservative gay men who enjoyed lives of privilege while others were literally fighting and dying for their rights.**

Roy was reportedly heartbroken when Eldridge died in January of 1985. He had been in Florida with Peter and another friend, Ed Gillis. They flew back to New York the next day to arrange the funeral, which was held at Roy's townhouse.

"Roy didn't cry, and he wasn't about to cry," Gillis told *Life* magazine in a 1988 interview. "He was angry but very reserved in his anger, and maybe he just cursed the disease and talked about how he had been trying to get somebody in the Office of Management and Budget to increase funding for research."

It was by accident that Cohn learned he, too, had the virus. One day he cut himself shaving and it wouldn't stop bleeding. When he went to the hospital they removed two growths plus something from his leg. Another growth on his ear was found to be malignant. Cohn was diagnosed with AIDS by doctors at the National Institutes of Health in October of 1985. In less than a year he would be dead.

The only people he told about his diagnosis were Fraser and his business partner of 30 years, Tom Bolan.

Cohn managed to use his influence to muscle his way to the head of the queue to be accepted into medical trials of the then-experimental HIV drug AZT and initially responded well to treatment. Others would die waiting for the drug.

However, his doctors' files record that, despite his diagnosis, he wasn't ready to abstain from sex yet and in 1985 there was still much unknown about the disease.

"Reinforce need for celibate state [to patient]," the files read. "Caution against spread of disease… [Patient] stated somewhat reluctant to become celibate."

Cohn did, however, show some interest in protecting others. "Patient asked for information on sexual practices," the files state. "I stated that the safest sex was none but if he wanted to have sex, he would need to use condoms and especially inform his partner that he had AIDS."

After three weeks of treatment Cohn checked himself out of the hospital and received a telegram from the Reagans wishing him a speedy recovery. "Nancy and I are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. May our Lord bless you with courage and strength. Take care and know that you have our concern," the message read.

His recovery was not to last.

Gossip about Cohn's health soon began to spread in the press. Someone must have recognised him at the hospital and put two-and-two together. Cohn denied the rumours, saying he had liver cancer, but the New York *Daily News* reported that he was "being treated by Dr Bijan Safai, whose field of expertise is Kaposi's sarcoma, a form of AIDS."

One night in January of 1986 Peter caught Cohn trying to kill himself, fumbling with his pills in the bathroom, but he was too weak to open the child-proof bottles by himself and Peter convinced him to come back to bed with him.

In March of 1986 a visibly ill Cohn appeared on *60 Minutes* and was asked point blank by Mike Wallace – are you a homosexual and do you have AIDS? "I'll tell you categorically, I do not have AIDS," he told Wallace. "Bachelor, unmarried, middle-aged… The stories [about me] go back to the [McCarthy] days."

He kept up the charade even with those in his life who knew he was gay, telling one friend that he

would have jumped off a building if he thought he had HIV.

Despite his failing health, Cohn had bought an Irish Wolfhound puppy for him and Peter to care for together. He named the dog Disraeli, after the Victorian-era Jewish Prime Minister of Britain and Conservative Party leader.

But it wasn't all roses between Peter and Roy. Cohn had an old boyfriend, "Mark," who he would fly in from California every few months for a visit behind Peter's back. When confronted by Peter when he'd find the plane tickets or travel agent bills, Cohn's response was always the same: "I'm dying… It may be the last time I see him."

In June of the final year of his life, the New York State Supreme Court, the same one his father had been appointed to by the president all those years ago, finally disbarred Cohn over charges of mishandling clients' funds, illegally using an escrow account and practicing "dishonesty, fraud, deceit and misrepresentation" over two decades.

In the mid '80s, while Trump was still there for him, his friend had testified as a character witness as that legal battle had begun, with *Vanity Fair* magazine reporting that at one stage Trump and Cohn spoke as much as "15 or 20 times a day" on the phone or in person.

But Trump cut ties with Cohn when rumours of his HIV diagnosis began to spread. Responding to the betrayal, Cohn reportedly said, "Donald pisses ice water."

"I don't know how he found out that Roy was HIV-positive, and then it was like, boom, gone," Cohn's long-time secretary Susan Bell would later recall of Trump.

That July, Cohn's health seriously declined. He couldn't recognise the doctors or nurses who were caring for him. The only person he really recognised was Peter. He soon lost the ability to speak and relied on Peter to communicate his needs.

In the final days, as Roy slipped away, syndicated columnist Jack Anderson obtained Cohn's medical file and finally confirmed Cohn's diagnosis to the public: AIDS. Whether Cohn ever learned of this is unknown.

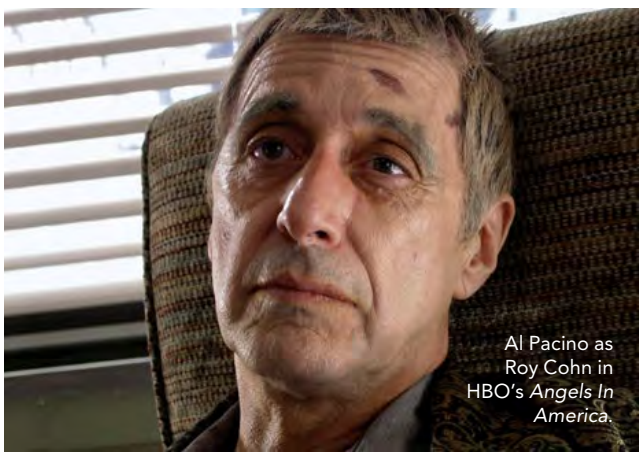
Cohn died from cardio-pulmonary arrest and dementia as a result of infection with the HTLV-3 strain of HIV on August 2, 1985 at 6am at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health at the age of 59. Peter sat beside him, holding his hand. Although he refused to acknowledge it publicly, his cause of death from HIV was acknowledged in virtually every obituary the next day.

His relationship with Peter was not so acknowledged. *The New York Times*' obituary simply recorded, "With him when he died there was his friend and aide, Peter Frazier [sic]."

Cohn left everything to Peter and his business partner Tom Bolan but the IRS ordered all his assets to be frozen as it had brought tax evasion charges against him claiming $7 million in back taxes from the estate. Cohn had been battling with the government for over a quarter of a century in the courts over his tax arrangements and it took his death for the tax man to finally triumph.

Veteran Republican political consultant and Trump advisor Roger Stone would later say Cohn's "absolute goal was to die completely broke and owing millions to the IRS. He succeeded in that."

Cohn's contempt for paying tax has clearly been adopted by Trump. *The New York Times* reported last October that Trump has claimed business losses of $916 million dollars, which he believes exempts him from paying any tax for the next 18 years. This claim is being examined by the IRS and US taxation lawyers.



Al Pacino as Roy Cohn in HBO's *Angels In America*.

It is unclear how much from the estate Peter ever received but, in 1988, he told one of Cohn's biographers, "Few people loved me and I certainly loved him. He protected me."

President Reagan did not attend Cohn's funeral, though Cohn was buried wearing a pin of the president on his suit. At the end of the service the four hundred gathered sang *God Bless America*, Cohn's favourite song.

While Cohn never publicly admitted he was HIV-positive, a square in his name was later added anonymously to The Names Project's AIDS Memorial Quilt. It simply read, "Roy Cohn: Bully, Coward, Victim."

ROY COHN'S LEGACY

Until the election of Donald Trump to the US Presidency, Roy Cohn's greatest claim to fame was the fictionalised account of the end of his life as it appeared in Tony Kushner's 1992 play, and the later television adaptation, *Angels In America: A Gay Fantasia On National Themes*.

The play would win numerous awards including the 1993 and 1994 Tony Award for Best Play and 1993 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Roy Cohn was played by Al Pacino in the HBO series – winning him an Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor for his performance in 2003.

With Trump's election, Cohn will be remembered as the mentor of the least qualified person to ever hold the office of the President of the United States. When President Trump comes up against obstacles, foreign and domestic, will he lead with the Cohn counterpunch? Or will Trump be able to moderate his behaviour and be diplomatic, content with the satisfaction of already having achieved his biggest con. Time will tell.

From Cohn, Trump also learned his litigiousness. Both Cohn and Trump have used the legal system to bully, intimidate and coerce their creditors, foes and underlings. Over the past three decades Trump and his businesses have been involved in nearly 3,500 legal cases in the US federal courts and state courts – an unprecedented number for a US presidential candidate. Trump, or one of his companies, were plaintiffs in 1,900 and defendants in 1,450.There are still pending lawsuits against Trump and his empire. Will we see President Trump in court during his administration and will President Trump go down in history as the president who sues?

Ultimately, Cohn will be remembered as part of a clique of rich, white, conservative gay and bisexual men who walked the corridors of power at a pivotal time in history, advancing their careers by stepping on their own, allowing themselves to have private lives of privilege and hypocrisy and never lifting a finger while others were literally fighting and dying for their rights.

Republican political operative Roger Stone summed Cohn up in a 2008 interview in *The New Yorker* magazine: "Roy was not gay."

"He was a man who liked having sex with men. Gays were weak, effeminate. He always seemed to have these young blond boys around. It just wasn't discussed. He was interested in power and access." ★

20 BEST GAY TRAVEL DESTINATIONS, 2017

Pack your snorkel. And your skis. And your stock whip. And your cock ring! There's so much on the gay calendar for 2017 you'll hardly be home at all. Feature by Xax Judd.

London's Hard On Club.

LONDON

In the '60s it was swinging. In the '70s it was spitting with punk fury. The '80s was the time of the New Romantics and the decade of the House music explosion. London has always had its finger on the style pulse and still does. Its thriving gay scene is centred in the West End's Soho around Old Compton Street, but there are small hubs such as Vauxhall and ultra-trendy Dalston. Of the dozens of shops and venues some of the most interesting are the over-fifty-year-old LGBT pub, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern; the hedonistic nightclub Heaven; and alternative hangout, The Retro Bar.

London Pride, June 24–July 9.

THE FIRST CANADA PRIDE, MONTREAL, AUGUST 10–20

Summer is always a great time to be in Montréal but this summer, instead of their usual Pride event, they're hosting the first Canada Pride – combining the Prides of Montréal, Vancouver and Toronto. It will be epic and will last for 11 days. 2017 also marks the 150th anniversary of Canadian Independence and the 375th commemoration of the forming of Montréal. Montréal's gay village (around Rue Saint-Catherine) will become an eclectic mix of cafés, bars, clubs and specialty parties. And, yes, there will be a massive Parade and, yes, it's highly like that dreamy PM Justin Trudeau himself will be somewhere among it.

www.fiertemontrealpride.com

RSVP'S SIX-DAY CARIBBEAN CRUISE, FEBRUARY 5-12

You're standing on the deck of a ship, looking out across the wide blue yonder with the warm glow of the sun on your back and a bunch of besties sharing a bevy. Setting sail from Key West, this oceanic excursion on Holland America's new vessel, *Koningsdam*, has ports of call including George Town (Grand Cayman), Roatán (Honduras) and Cozumel (Mexico). There's no chance to get bored on-board. Your luxurious cruise liner boasts the World Stage, a theatre configured to surround the audience with a 270-degree LED screen; a two-tiered nightclub where there's a riotous cabaret; various pools; a casino; a fitness centre and a spa. A limited number of Oceanview Staterooms are available.

www.rsvpvacations.com

THE LIFE BALL IN VIENNA, JUNE 10

Vienna is legendary for its huge balls. It has over 450 colossal ones each year. It all started back in the 18th Century when the Holy Roman Emperor, Joseph II, first allowed non-nobility to take part in such dances in masks and costumes. It caught on and today one of the most illustrious LGBT celebrations is the star-studded Life Ball, which has been raising funds for AIDS causes for over two decades. This glamorous gala is staged in the City Hall and all who attend must be costumed according to theme. (At time of press, this year's theme was not yet announced.) Tickets are limited to 3,780 guests who get to enjoy a variety of bars and buffets and music from waltzes to pop, to opera. There's also a fabulous fashion show and celebs galore!

www.lifeball.org

BRAND G'S PRAGUE AND DANUBE RIVER CRUISE, AUGUST 11-20

Visit four of Europe's most delightful capital cities in an 11-day trip starting with a 48-hour stay in Prague where you'll experience Pride amid the historic onion domes, statues and towers. Then your ship, *The Amsterdam Silver*, which boasts 78 elegant cabins, journeys along the famous waterway taking in Bratislava, Budapest and Vienna.

www.brandgvacations.com

ATLANTIS' RIO CARNIVAL TO BUENOS ARIES CRUISE, FEBRUARY 25–MARCH 7

"In Brazil they throw flowers at you. In Argentina they throw themselves." To see if you agree with the legendary Marlene Dietrich, sign up for this 11-day South American extravaganza. The fun begins with a 72-hour sojourn in Rio during the biggest street party on Earth. Over two million people attend the eponymous carnival. The colour, passion and *joie de vive* continues in Buenos Aries, Montevideo, Porto Belo, Santos and more. Your home for the duration will be the HMS Regatta. Along with the usual on-board entertainment, chef Jacques Pepin will be conjuring up scintillating cuisine in all five restaurants.

www.atlantisevents.com

AROSA GAY SKI WEEK, SWITZERLAND, JANUARY 21–28

Arosa is a small, quaint town perched at 1,775 metres in the picture-perfect Swiss Alps. Conditions couldn't be better with guaranteed snow, sunshine and fresh air. What's more, as Arosa is linked with Lenzerheide resort by cable car, there's over 225kms of piste at one's disposal. Stimulating hiking trails, tobogganing, skating and horse-drawn carriage rides are on offer. The itinerary includes such treats as the Gay-ó-Meal Food Party, Swiss Fondue and Sledding Night. Here's a money-saving tip: get an all-in-one party pass – gold, silver or bronze – for official events rather than buying individual tickets.

www.arosa-gayskiweek.com

PRIDE AND SKI FESTIVAL, WHISTLER BLACKCOMB, CANADA JANUARY 22–29

Roughly 120kms north of Vancouver is Whistler Blackcomb, home to one of the best LGBTI ski weeks in North America. During the day, ski and board the legendary slopes (plenty of runs to suit all ability levels). It's easy to buddy-up, join a mountain tour, or get a guide if you're on your own. Of course, there's plenty of apré-ski drinks and themed parties every night. This year, the event's 25th anniversary, includes a night of comedy with Pam Ann in *Snow Landing*. The closing party *Snowball 25* will be a must: mega sound, stunning visuals, hunky go-gos, and The Cube Guys rocking the house until well past your late check-out!

www.gaywhistler.com

Photography: Terry George.

OIL WRESTLING, EDIRNE, TURKEY, LATE JUNE–JULY

Beefy hunks in leather trunks, grappling with each other's oil-drenched bodies. Sounds like a delectable gay fantasy but this intriguing grease wrestling sport (*Yağlı güreş*) is Turkey's national pastime. In these fascinating tussles, competitors wear short, hand-stitched leather trousers known as *kisbets*. Yanking the garment so far below an opponent's hips so that he cannot rise without exposing himself is one of the ways of winning the match. The annual tournament, the *Kırkpınar*, takes place in Edirne, approximately 240km from Istanbul, and has been occurring since 1362, making it the oldest continuously sanctioned sporting competition in existence.

BEARS ON ICE, REYKJAVIK, AUGUST 31–SEPTEMBER 3

Just over ten years ago a pride of bears descended on the Icelandic capital, Reykjavik and had such a good time that Bears On Ice in now a regular four-day event for the fur contingent and their admirers. As well as a couple of incredible parties there are two engaging excursions. Firstly, the Golden Circle tour is a daytrip that includes a trio of Iceland's natural wonders: the breathtaking Gullfoss waterfall; the eponymous Geysir (which has given its name to all spouting hot springs); and the Unesco World Heritage-listed *Þingvellir* National Park, a spectacular rugged landscape where the world's oldest extant parliament, the Althing, was founded in 930AD. Secondly, there's an expedition that involves a 50-minute drive out of Reykjavik to the soothing, mineral-rich waters of the amazing geothermal spa, the Blue Lagoon.

www.bearsonice.org

BERLIN

Because it was split into East and West during the Cold War (1947-1991), Berlin is a city with a unique appeal and atmosphere. Due to its historic division there is no gay village as such, but numerous venues spread all over town. Traditionally, the LGBT centres have been the districts of Schöneberg (where Christopher Isherwood and David Bowie both lived), and Kreuzberg in the Western part of the German capital; and Prenzlauer Berg in the Eastern part. Between them, they contain a glittering array of cafés, bars and clubs, and this uber-metropolis' cool hang-outs that cater to every taste: leather, bear, rubber, industrial (music), drag etc.

Berlin Gay Pride (Christopher Street Day), 22 July.

Porn star Hans Berlin – in Berlin.

SYDNEY'S GAY AND LESBIAN MARDI GRAS, FEBRUARY 17–MARCH 5

The Southern Hemisphere's biggest annual event began in the 1970s as a protest against police brutality. The violent riot that followed triggered seismic social changes in Australia and lead to decriminalisation and broad social acceptance. Mardi Gras' 2017 theme, Creating Equality, is a combination of arts, politics and parties. Hundreds of thousands of locals and tourists will be entertained at Fair Day, the ever-popular film festival, underwear parties and, of course, the massive night Parade (4 March) and after-party (ending in the small hours of March 5). Past party performers have included Conchita Wurst, Kylie Minogue, George Michael, Chaka Khan, Olivia Newton-John, Cyndi Lauper and Boy George. Who will it be in 2017?

www.mardigras.org.au

Photography: Marc Berndsen

XLSIOR FESTIVAL, MYKONOS, AUGUST 23–30

Picturesque white-walled houses, languid windmills, beaches with soft-underfoot-sand that fringe a bay with crystal-clear turquoise waters… and the doof-doof-doof hedonistic beat of one of the world's most popular gay destinations. Welcome to Mykonos, a small, charming Greek island adrift in the Aegean Sea. Stay in the capital, Mykonos Town (also known as Chora by the 30,000 locals), an ideal spot for this summer festival. Cavort, frolic and dance for hours in the trendiest open-air venues to some of the most acclaimed DJs and musical acts on the LGBTI circuit. Want more sight-seeing? There are thousands of ripped guys *sans* shirt as temperatures reach a sizzling 35 Celsius.

www.xlsiorfestival.com

Appreciating nature in Queenstown for Gay Ski Week.

GAY SKI WEEK, QUEENSTOWN, LATE AUGUST

Although it doesn't compare with the scale of Northern Hemisphere gay ski weeks, New Zealand's surely rivals the others for fun and adventure. Don't let picturesque Queenstown, nestling quietly on the edge of Lake Wakatipu, fool you. This little town boasts big-city distractions (restaurants, bars and clubs) and is not regarded as the capital of extreme sports for nothing. Apart from the skiing on several great peaks nearby, Queenstown offers jet-boating, skydiving, zip-lining, paragliding, mini-subbing, go-karting, bungey jumping… it goes on. Ski Week events include costume parties, formal dinners, karaoke, quiz nights, and fun that keeps punters coming back year after year.

www.gayskiweekqt.com

WORLD OUT GAMES, MIAMI, MAY 26–JUNE 4

A minute bead of sweat drips down a footballer's brow, a forehand ripples the top of the net and a chessboard maestro opens with a Sicilian Defence. Nothing beats the cut-and-thrust, or camaraderie, of competition. This carnival of athleticism and mind powers is open to all levels of participants regardless of their sexual orientation. Additionally, events will not be limited to the 35 sports on offer. There are hundreds of cultural and humanitarian events planned. Many of the expected 15,000 contestants and 150,000 spectators will be from countries where homosexuality remains illegal or hidden. During the games, a diverse array of concerts, dance and pool parties, and art exhibitions will be held at Lummus Park, a gorgeous wedge of Miami oceanfront that will be transformed into World Out Games Festival Village.

www.outgames.org

LADY GAGA AT THE THE 51ST SUPER BOWL, HOUSTON, FEBRUARY 5

For most of the spectators and global audience, there's the little matter of an American football match between the AFC and NFC champions. For some of us, however, the real kick will be the halftime performance by the one-and-only, Lady Gaga.

www.nfl.com/superbowl

BROADWAY BARES, NEW YORK, DATES TBC

Ever wanted to see what those gorgeous, toned chorus boys look like without their sequins and tap shoes on? Now you can, and all for a good cause. Originated by American theatre director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell (currently enjoying *Kinky Boots* success) to raise money for people living with HIV/AIDS, the show is a bodacious, burlesque affair starring Broadway's hottest dancers and actors who, generously, nude-up. Often hosted by sparkling personalities like Graham Norton and Alan Cumming, the 2016 shows (there are a few over a week) raised over $1.8 million. Tickets go fast so be vigilant on ticket sites.

www.broadwaybares.com

Josh Green and cast performing at Broadway Bares.

Photography: Benjamin Ryan.

BARCELONA CIRCUIT FESTIVAL, AUGUST, 5–20

Where can you find 70,000 six-packed Adonises? At Europe's boldest and brashest party. The Matinée Group's 2017 event is set to be bigger than ever. Now in its tenth year, expect parties, parties, parties until the embers of sunrise. An international roster of super DJs and entertainers (yet to be announced) will be joined on a program of mixed cultural and sports events including paddle surf and volleyball. If you need to calm down a bit, take a stroll past the exceptional Gaudi architecture, the bustling Las Rambla or find a spot on one of the many beaches.

www.circuitfestival.net

WORLD GAY RODEO FINALS, ALBUQUERQUE, OCTOBER 13–15

Stetsons, leather chaps and plaid shirts have never been so cool as at this buckaroo fest. Gay rodeos are held throughout Canada and the United States and began so as to allow the LGBTI community to participate free of the homophobia they may experience among the cowboy fraternity, and to raise funds for charities. The finals in Albuquerque, New Mexico will involve roping, rough stock, speed and camp events, along with goat dressing and wild drag racing. Go rope yourself a cowboy.

www.igra.com

THE GAY TENT AT OKTOBERFEST, MUNICH, SEPTEMBER 16–OCTOBER 3

Despite its name, this event actually runs from September until October 3. The festival dates back to 1810 and is the biggest beer drinking-funfair on the planet with over six million people in attendance on average. Several huge tents house the carousing but not everyone is aware that one of these, the *Bräurosl*, hosts a party for the LGBTI community (the *Rosa Wiesn*) on the first Sunday of this enormous jamboree. Expect, typically, 6,000-plus mainly males who turn up to celebrate, kitted-out in traditional *Lederhosen* or *Dirndl* dress. *Prost!*

www.oktoberfest.de/en

REDISCOVERING PETRA

A GREAT METROPOLIS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD, ONE OF THE NEW SEVEN WONDERS AND ABOUT AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN GET TO STEPPING BACK IN TIME, PETRA IS A BUCKET-LIST DESTINATION, AND BEST TACKLED ON FOOT RATHER THAN DONKEY!

PHOTOGRAPHY AND STORY BY RILEY-MCFARLANE PHOTOGRAPHY

Remember that scene in *Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade* where Indy is on horseback galloping down a deep, narrow sandstone gorge that suddenly reveals an amazing structure hewn into a sandstone cliff? This is Al Khazneh (The Treasury), part of the ancient, rose-coloured city of Petra. Lost to the modern world until 1812 and now one of Jordan's most recognizable destinations. It is both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders Of The World.

Many who travel here assume that Petra is just this one building, but beyond lies one of the most inspiring cities of the ancient world. The city is a breathtaking 264-square kilometres of temples, streets, an amphitheater and numerous carved tombs. It was possibly built as early as 312 BC by the Nabataeans, an Arab people. They were eventually conquered by the Romans, who subsequently abandoned Petra around 663 AD.

The journey into the lost city begins with a two-kilometre walk through the Siq or gorge. A horse ride, included in the entrance fee will take you from the stables just inside the front entry to the beginning of the gorge a mere 800 metres away. However, the dubious treatment of the horses may make you reconsider and, in fact, walking may be the better choice as there are many smaller tombs and sites of interest that would be easily missed from horseback. However, after a day-long trek through the beating sun, a horse ride on the return leg may offer a welcome respite.

The chasm winds gradually down into the valley. With each stride you step further back into history through the Byzantine and Roman eras, but you also begin to realize that at the end of the day, the return trip will be all uphill!

Periodically along the pathway, touts with varying degrees of aggression beg you to buy postcards or tempt you to ride their camels or donkeys. A smile and a firm "no" is usually >>

TOP TRAVEL TIP:

Entering Jordan you will be required to purchase a visitor's visa and this requires local currency. If flying, withdraw from an ATM in the arrivals hall rather than using the currency exchange booth.

>> enough. Note, though, that a "maybe" means "yes" so it's best avoided.

Most tourists go no further than the Library, but exploration beyond this point is rewarded with unexpected sights and experiences.

Waded, a local Bedouin woman who runs a stall at the foot of The Royal Tomb invited us to take refuge from the beating sun under her tent and offered a restorative pot of sage tea made over a small open fire. As her children played around us, she explained that she lives just beyond the ancient city in a Bedouin village but is inspired each day to sit beneath the ancient carved cliffs selling her wares. Along with other locals that line the main walking routes of the city, she sells scarves, jewellery and locally made trinkets.

Further on, you start the climb to El Deir (The Monastery), another of Petra's grand carved façades located at the top of one of the highest peaks in the area. In the heat, it's certainly a challenge ascending the 800 steps to the site.

It is possible to take a donkey, the locals call them taxis, although personally the pilgrimage to the top is best done on foot to enable you to really take in the astounding view of the valley below. Watching others who have bravely decided to ride a donkey it becomes more apparent that walking is surely the safest option. The width of the steps and treacherousness of the geography means you're expending as much energy just trying to stay on your donkey as you would otherwise walking.

The Monastery does not have the same impact as The Treasury due to its location and the direction of your approach, however, standing at 50 metres high and 45 metres wide, its scale is compensation enough with the view over the valley a spectacular backdrop.

Accommodation is available close to the entrance gates or in the nearby town of Wadi Musa (which is Arabic for "Valley Of Moses"). It is said that it was here that Moses struck his staff on a rock to provide water for his followers. It's from this same spring that the Nabateans drew water into their city.

Petra is often included on the list of Places You Must See Before You Die – and while that recommendation stands, be aware that the rugged terrain and heat may just hasten the death part! It is not a day trip. If you decide to see it then take the opportunity to see some of the other sights of Jordan while you're in the country. The people are friendly, the sights amazing and in the context of the Middle-East, it is a safe place to visit. ★

While homosexuality is not illegal in Jordan, there are no anti-discrimination laws and LGBT people displaying public affection can be prosecuted for "disrupting public morality". In a recent poll asking, "Should society accept homosexuality?" 97 per cent of respondents said no. This is still an Islamic country whose civil laws are in line with Sharia law. Tolerance of the LGBT community is growing but is not yet universal, so caution is always warranted.

DOING THE CIRCUIT

5TH-17TH AUGUST, 2017

BARCELONA'S LEGENDARY CIRCUIT FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2017 AND THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING – A MIGHTY BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY!

IN 2008, Spain's Matinée Group launched Circuit Festival, a week-long program of gay clubbing that reinvented the party scene and turned Barcelona into the gay capital of Europe. Today, thousands of LGBTI party-goers from around the world head to Circuit for the summer festival.

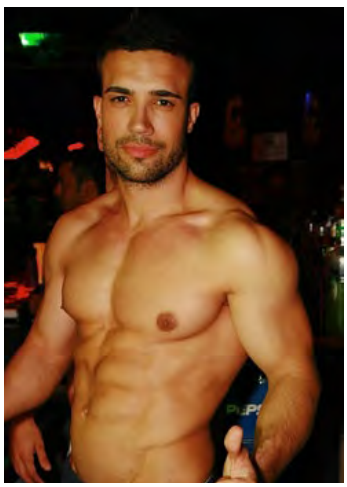
Two years previously, in 2006, another iconic Spanish brand was born – ES Collection, best known for their sexy swimwear, underwear, athletic and street wear. Of course, ES Collection and Addicted gear make great party wear and before long ES and Matinée became partners.

Since 2008, hundreds of thousands of gays and lesbians have danced in the sun at the famous waterpark party and created a new global tradition. Circuit Festival means the best DJs, meeting with friends from all over the world and making new ones, celebrating our culture and diversity, and discovering Barcelona's beautiful beaches and incredible lifestyle.

For Circuit Festival 2017 expect 15 whole days (three weekends), brand new spaces, more than 25 themed parties, 50 world-class DJs and astonishing events.

MORE: www.circuitfestival.net

MORE: ADDICTED is represented in Australia at addictedaustralia.com and Bang Clothing, Darlinghurst, Sydney.



Photography: Marc Berndsen

Photography: Marc Berndsen

View from Josh's bathtub in the Shangri-La Paris.

Is That The Eiffel Tower Or Are You Just Pleased To See Me?

To fall in love once is amazing. To fall in love again and taste, smell and explore every inch like it's your first time is sublime. It's this joy that has me returning to Paris each year, to fall in love again with the most romantic city in the world.

To love Paris is something of a cliché, to use a beautifully French word, but The Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Champs-Elysées… predictable as they may be, are no less impressive in their own right.

Paris makes an art of drinking, eating and even shopping. Cycling, sight-seeing, sex and romance are all the better in the French capital. Joshua Heath explains…

Printemps department store.

SHOPPING

THE FRENCH are known for their dress sense so it's no surprise that Paris delivers when it comes to shopping. For the big department store experience you can't go past Printemps and Galleries Lafayette, positioned next door to each other on Boulevard Haussmann. Both stores are filled with luxury brands from high-end watches like Hubolt to fashion houses like Louis Vuitton, Hermés and Sandro. If you're not into crowds, though, avoid.

Le Marais is not just the gay centre of Paris, it's the heart and soul of cool, casual street fashion, home and lifestyle stores, and pop-up shops featuring up-and-coming designers. Le Marais is in the 3rd and 4th arrondissement, its narrow streets winding between the Louvre and the Bastille. Through summer, it's awash with beautiful men from around the world, enjoying the outdoor gay bars, cafés, restaurants, and the shops that make up the area. BHV L'HOMME on rue de la Verrerie, a department store, is worth checking out.

The best time for shopping in Paris is during the sales (*soldes*) which happen twice a year. Winter Sales are January 11th through to February 21st. Summer sales 2017 are expected to start on June 28 and end August 8th.

If you love a sale you can't miss a trip out to La Vallee Village, 40 minutes out of Paris – it's factory-direct Paris-style. Take the RER A train line and exit at Val d'Europe/Serris Montévrain station, the stop before the Marne-la-Vallée-Chessy-Parcs Disney stop. Turn right out of the station and walk through the Val d'Europe mall to La Vallée Village. It's open seven days a week from 10am to 7pm and there are over 100 fashion and homeware outlets offering discounts of up to 60 per cent. Unlike many other DFO outlets around the world selling ranges that are seasons old, Lavaliere Village is current season. If you're from the Southern Hemisphere you'll be buying gear that hasn't even hit our shores yet, but at heavily reduced prices. Don't forget the 12 per cent tax refund when you spend over €175 on the same day in the same store. This includes La Vallée Village and sale periods.

RESTAURANTS

I BLAME Paris for my annual 5kg weight gain; over indulging on cheeses, wines and the endless, enticing restaurants and cafés that beckon and seduce. This year I added three new favourites to my list and perhaps a couple more kilos.

Le George is in the luxurious 18th Century Four Season Hotel, George V. Overlooking an impressive sun-soaked marble courtyard, this chic restaurant offers light and modern Mediterranean-style cuisine. I recommend the three-course lunch menu at €65. It may not be the cheapest lunch you'll have but it will definitely be one of the best.

After lunch, head across the courtyard to La Gallerie for cocktails and people watching, enhanced by the pianist who plays from 3pm. Located just steps from the Champs-Elysées, the city's luxury fashion district, the crowd is a mix of chic travellers and stylish fashionistas. Jeff Leatham is the hotel's artistic director, creating incredible floral displays throughout the hotel lobby, restaurants and marble courtyard. These alone are worth going to see, especially if you're in Paris for Christmas.

The perfect place after a full day's shopping, Benedict is in the heart of Le Marais and takes a breakfast favourite to a whole new dinner level. The Benedict Burger is a 250g juicy beef patty, roast tomato, guacamole, poached eggs and hollandaise sauce – and is ridiculously good. Add a side of truffle fries and a bottle of rosé and you'll be in a food coma for the rest of the night. Book a table in the window, sit back and watch the beautiful men promenade Le Marais.

To discover a restaurant and bar with breath-taking views across the City Of Light, take the lift to the 7th floor or climb the 127 stairs of the Terries Hotel to reach Terrass

Perched high above Montmartre, the restaurant and bar feels like an artist's loft with its large bay windows and a mixture of leather and wood finishes. I recommend a long Sunday brunch sampling some the country's best wines. Montmartre is the highest point in Paris making Terrass one of the best bars to watch the sunset before heading down the hill to the Moulin Rouge.

THE MOULIN ROUGE

Féerie (opposite) has been playing at Le Moulin Rouge for nearly 20 years and still packs house twice a night, 52 weeks of the year. I've seen it many times and, like the 1,200 strong audience on this particular night, was singing the theme song before it even began. What follows is a two-hour, non-stop, high-energy spectacular including specialty acts and… miniature horses!

Just as you think the show has reached its pinnacle, a glass aquarium rises from the stage to reveal two huge live pythons as the snake charmer dives in to swim with them. From the opening number when the dancers rip off their glittering sliver pants to the epic staircase that cascades from the ceiling during the finalé, the >>

Moulin Rouge boys.

>> Moulin Rouge should not be missed.

Incidentally, The Moulin Rouge loves Aussie men. A large majority of the cast are from Down Under including the super sexy Kristian Crowe (featured in DNA #197).

LE PICNIC

TUILERIE Gardens is the perfect location to picnic. I suggest stopping at a local fromagerie (cheese shop) to pick up a selection of France's best, a baguette and, of course, a bottle of champagne. Just in front of the Louvre is a grassed area that's great to watch the sun set behind the Eiffel Tower as the city bursts into nightlife. A favourite of locals and tourist, this is a definite must and it won't cost you a fortune. From there it's an easy walk along the river Seine to Le Marais for some gay nightlife.

THE GAY QUARTER

POPULAR gay bars in Paris include the Café Cox (butch crowd), The Banana Café (younger crowd), The Quetzal (for a conversation) and the Raidd Bar, where the hot bartenders turn into strippers and famously take a public shower every night.

If you're looking for something a little more chic consider Le Café Marly. It may be expensive but it's worth paying for the chance to enjoy a drink on the terrace of the Louvre overlooking the glass pyramids. A favourite among celebrities, models and designers, keep your eyes peeled.

HIP BARS

HIGH, LONG, narrow and luminous, the aptly named Le Bar Long is at the hotel Royal Monceau and is designed by Philippe Starck. The bar's signature cocktail, the Raffles' Parisian Sling is recommended and with good reason. Gin Sipsmith, Raffles 1915, Grand Marnier, yellow Chartreuse, green Chartreuse, apple juice, pressed lime juice, pineapple juice, kiwi syrup, fresh mint, soda. Yep, it's good. And the crowd? It's popular with local lawyers, financiers and the kids from the advertising industry, along with well-heeled foreigners. Hotel rooms in this next of *le woods* are from about €780 a night.

Le Bar Botaniste is tucked away in the lobby of the famed Shangri-La Paris. The bar reflects the hotel's opulence with its gold-leaf details and rich fabric walls. The black granite, bronze and mahogany bar beckons as you enter the room – or perhaps it was the handsome barmen that caught my eye.

Fifteen signature cocktails make up the list, featuring rare botanical spirits and carefully selected liquors. Each cocktail is a masterpiece in its creation and doesn't disappoint on consumption – although I can't claim to have sampled all 15. Definitely put Le Bar Botaniste on your to-do list and report back.

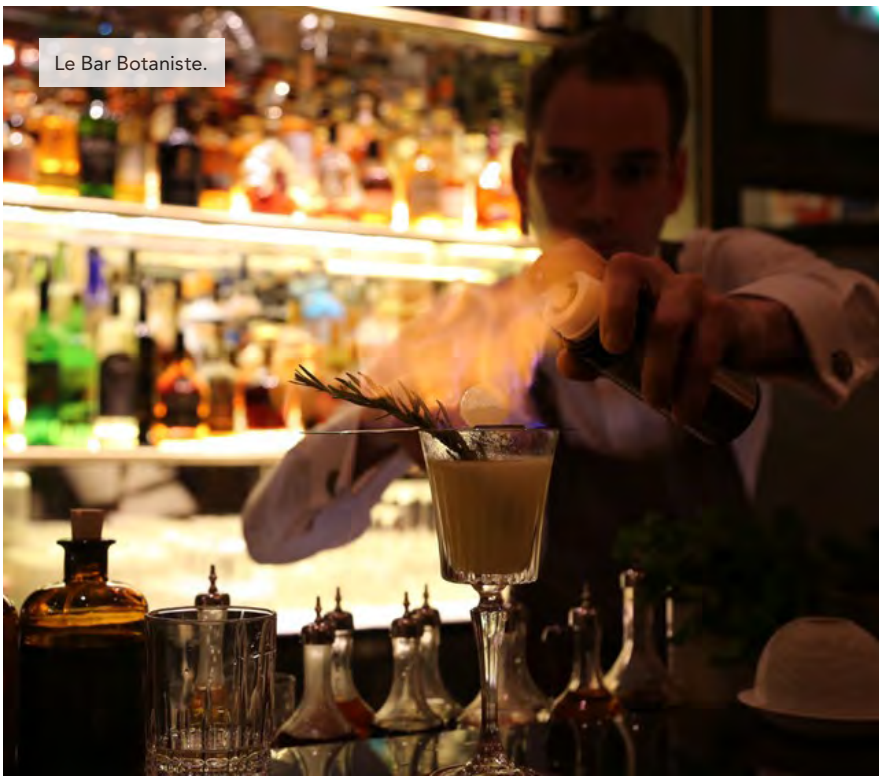
CHAMPAGNE

WE NOW come to the small matter of champagne. Not going to the Reims, France's champagne region approximately 45 minutes by train outside of Paris, would be like going to Italy as a gluten intolerant vegetarian. There are several champagne houses to choose from, however, for me, you can't go past Veuve Clicquot, whose cellars are listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

There are several tours to choose from including public or private tours depending on >>

Four Seasons Hotel lobby Christmas decorations.

Romance is alive and well and living in Paris.



Le Bar Botaniste.

The Veuve Clicquot cellars.

Marble courtyard at the Four Seasons.

Shangri-La luxury: room service and giant bed.

>> your budget. My pick is Aromatically Yours where you'll discover the fruits and flowers of the aromatic garden before being guided down to the heart of the cellars. You'll taste Brut Yellow Label and four vintages including two rare vintages, accompanied with unpasteurised cheeses. The tours operate Tuesday to Saturday from March through November. Bookings are essential, and prices start from €25.

THE BIKES

WITH OVER 23,600 bikes across the city, available 24/7 all year long, in 1,800 bike stations located every 300 meters, using the Vélib Bike hire system is the best way to get out and explore Paris. With over 317km of dedicated bike paths you'll never run out of options. Download the Pocket Earth app; it's the best offline maps app. Download cities, countries or the entire world before you travel to avoid expensive roaming bills. Bikes do not come with helmets so ride safe and pay attention to the cars even when riding in dedicated bike lanes.

SEX

YOU'RE IN the City Of Love – why not sample a little Parisian passion? Gym Louvre was the first gay gym in Paris, offering a well-equipped gym on the first floor with a mix of cardio equipment, and pin and free weights. Downstairs you'll find the sauna and X'Zone, with private rooms, a maze, public and private showers, steam and sauna, video rooms and free towels. It's clean and draws a mixed crowd of business men and gym goers. The busiest time is from 5pm. It's open every day from 9am to 2am, entry is €7.

Sun City is one of the biggest and most popular gay saunas in Paris. Through an antique doorway you'll enter an impressive Indian-themed sauna spanning 3,000 square-metres. With the huge indoor swimming pool, sauna and steam room, jacuzzi, private cabins, dark room, video room, gym and lounge bar there really is something for everyone. Every night is busy with a mixed crowd, especially after the local bars close. Entrance fee includes a drink, towel and condom. It's open every day from 12pm to 6am, and entry is €7.

SHANGRI-LA PARIS

THIS YEAR I decide to pull out all the stops – and the Amex – to experience one of the world's most luxurious and multi-award winning hotels, Shangri-La Paris. The hotel took out three of the Hotel Of The Year Awards in 2015: Best Fine Dining worldwide, Best Hotel Chef worldwide and Best Hotel Room worldwide. No wonder Queen B herself was staying in the suite above mine throughout my stay.

Once home to Napoleon Bonaparte's grand-nephew, Prince Robert Bonaparte, the royal treatment lives on in this five-star masterpiece. As my car pulled up to the front of the hotel I was greeted by attentive staff who ushered me into the discreet check-in area. My luggage was already in my room by the time I reached it, along with a handwritten welcome letter accompanied by macaroons, champagne and beautiful fresh flowers.

The hotel offers 65 rooms and 36 luxuriously appointed suites, each with marble bathroom, heated floors, rainfall shower and a flat screen television integrated into a large mirror over the double vanity. My room allowed me to lay in the bathtub, as I did, and view the Eiffel Tower from my window… with a glass of champagne, of course.

From my bed, which was huge, I enjoyed unobstructed views across the Seine to the Eiffel Tower and beyond. There is something seriously romantic about lying in bed with your man and watching the Eiffel Tower burst into life with its glittering night-time display.

Whether it's your first time in Paris or you're a frequent visitor you'll love the *10 Parisian Walks* guide, a pocket book created especially by the hotel. I recommend taking one of the walks in the evening along the Seine, just watch yourself, though: the pickpockets are cunning.

The Shangri-La Paris offers not one but two separate Michelin star restaurants, Shang Palace, the only Michelin-starred Chinese restaurant in France, and L'Abeille with two Michelin stars. Even the room service is exceptional, so if you'd prefer to sit in your comfy bathrobe and gaze out the window, you can be sure of a feast fit for a Prince.

The Shangri-La Paris lived up to the hype, was everything I expected and more, and is, without doubt, one of the best hotels I've stayed in. ★

2GETHERING

Forget the hotel room – take the whole hotel or villa or castle! "Togethering" is the latest travel trend, which sees groups of friends book out a whole location. And the gays love it, says Andy Grant a villa manager in Bali.

DNA: Togethering is the new buzz word in travel. Are you seeing that in your properties?
Andy Grant: Yes, often. It's a great option for groups of friends or a large family holiday. Nothing compares to a villa holiday. Once you've experienced it there's no going back!
Is it the luxury of it that appeals?
Yes, and the privacy. The whole place is exclusively yours.
No nasty squabbles about who gets the best seat by the pool, then?
Right! You don't have to race out to the pool lounger and 5am and put your towel on it! Plus, you have your own team of staff on-hand to take care of your every whim. Most villas have chefs available at all times, full butler service, 24-hour security, and a full-time manager who can organise drivers and bookings at the best spots in town.
Surely one of the other advantages is cost?
Booking as a group makes it an extremely cost effective way to holiday in absolute luxury. When you split the nightly rate up among your group it generally means you can enjoy five-star luxury at an affordable price. Your day-to-day expenses such as meals come at a fraction of the cost as you're only charged for the groceries that are purchased with a minimal service charge in comparison to a resort holiday, which can be very expensive for wining and dining.
Do you think gay travellers have been togethering for some time?
Yes. This is something groups of gay friends often do. They can enjoy their holiday with those who are special to them, and not with all the other guests in a main common area of a resort. Exclusivity and privacy.
Australians love south-east Asian destinations. What are the current hot spots?
You obviously can't go past Bali. Phuket is fantastic – incredible beaches, people, and who doesn't love Thai food? Singapore is a great stop-over on route to Bali or Phuket, great for a couple of days shopping and dining. The Philippines and Vietnam are also on the hot list.
We keep hearing about sea levels rising and islands like the Maldives disappearing. Should we be booking the Maldives sooner rather than later?
Not disappearing in the near future, however, it's an amazing location and a must-see.
Bali has a patchy reputation. How can travellers make sure they have a safe, relaxing, stylish holiday there?
I have never felt un-safe in Bali. It is a safe place to travel. Like anywhere in the world you have to be aware of yourself and surroundings when you're out and about and be respectful.
As a seasoned traveller yourself, what are your hot travel tips?
Always have the local currency of wherever you're headed. Make sure the toiletries bag is full of essentials – any lotions or potions, special medicines you may not be able to get at your destination. Always a good lip balm. My husband and I are in love with tropical Asian holidays. We are lucky enough to call Bali home, but we love Phuket, too. It's the amazing people and cultures and affordable luxury you can enjoy along with the tropical climate.

MORE: Andy Grant is Villa Manager for Elite Havens. Go to outandabouttravel.com.au

TAP FOR MORE!

VILLA BATAVIA, LAKSMANA

Created by a former Swiss pharmacist and his partner, the five-bedroom Villa Batavia has a Colonial feel. Think The Raffles: afternoon tea in heirloom teacups, sundown cocktails in the open-sided bar, and gourmet silver service dining. The villa is in the Laksmana Estate, minutes from Petitenget Beach, Ku De Ta and the bright lights of Seminyak.

Go to: outandabouttravel.com.au

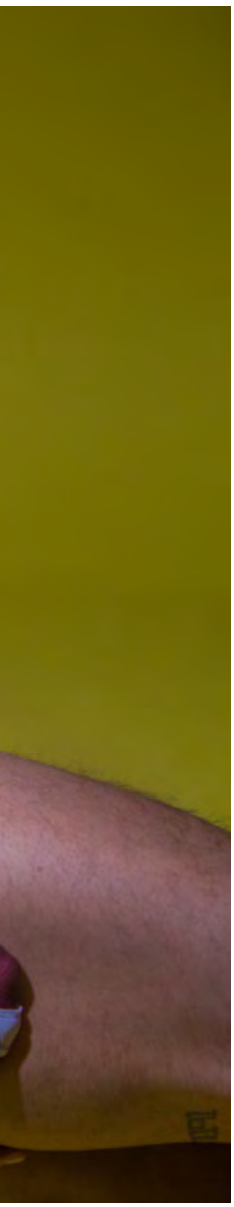
Pin-Up!

PHOTOGRAPHY, STYLING, GROOMING CHÁN ANDRÉ FOR VOYEURIZED
MODEL DAVID JOHN CRAIG
HAIR PHILIP WOLFF

DAVID WEARS BETTERTHANFAMOUS.COM T-SHIRT.

DAVID WEARS VINTAGE TRUNKS.

DAVID WEARS VINTAGE SHORTS.



DAVID WEARS VINTAGE SHORTS.

DAVID WEARS VINTAGE SHORTS AND SCARF.

DAVID WEARS COTTON ON TANKTOP,
AQUASWISS SUNGLASSES,
VINTAGE DENIM JEANS.

DAVID WEARS
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IN THE DIGITAL-ONLY
EXTRA PAGES

#NB THE EGGPLANTS ARE NOT SCRATCH AND SNIFF!

- 2016 - YEAR OF THE AUBERGINE

As others reflected on 2016 with insightful analysis of the US election, the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, Cassini's final, dying orbits of Saturn, or the tiring marriage equality debate in Australia, here we'd like to reflect on the real trend of 2016: the "leaked" celebrity nude. Nothing keeps one in the public eye like a nob-out Snapchat post of one's self! Oops, did I really post that?

JUSTIN BIEBER

SINGER

The master of the leaked nude, Justin Bieber had another nude pic "leaked" on OMGblog.com, days after Orlando Bloom. It was Justin's way of telling the world that while he may not be the king of pop, he is the king of the leaked celebrity nude.

ORLANDO BLOOM

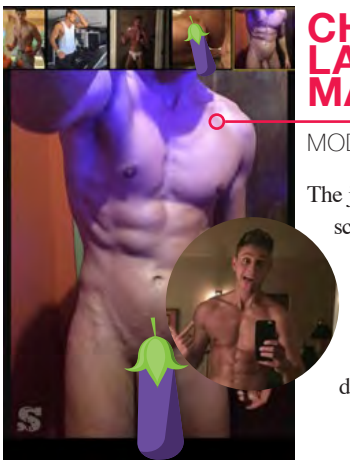
MOVIE STAR

Orlando certainly bloomed this year when OMGblog.com "leaked" his naked paddle board escapades with Katy Perry.

PIETRO BOSELLI

MODEL

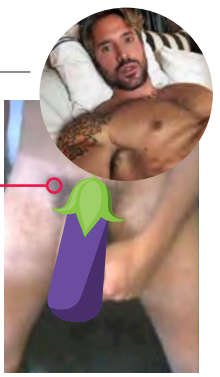
Thanks to the magic of photoshop, we may have had our first glimpse at everyone's favourite maths teacher turned model Pietro Boselli's third leg! It's either the flower's thick branch or his, you decide.



CHARLES LAURENT MARCHAND

MODEL

The joy of capturing a screen shot saw model Charles Laurent Marchand's private naked Scruff pics "leaked"! Quick, download the app!



ROBERT SEPULVEDA JR.

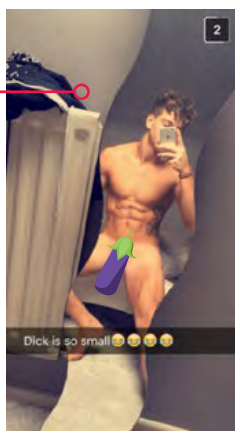
REALITY TV

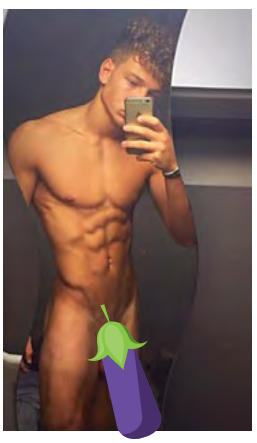
LOGO TV's *Finding Prince Charming* contestant, Robert's escort past caught up with him in a series of revealing XTube videos.

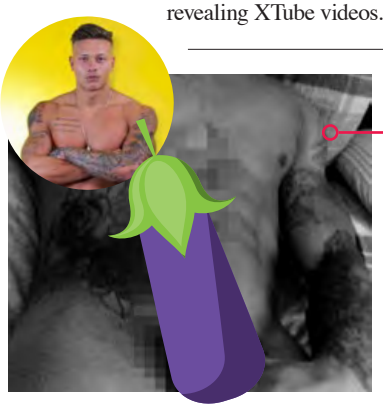
BRANDON MAYERS

REALITY TV

MTV's *Ex On The Beach* personality, Brandon Mayers, sent his Snapchat followers into a tailspin with a series of deliberately "leaked" naked photos showing of his ever impressive length, girth… everything!







ALEX BOWEN

REALITY TV

The UK reality TV personality from *Love Island* had his impressive nudes "leaked" to Twitter. None are fit to publish here, but who'd know anything about him without them?

Fingers crossed 2017 is bigger, better, bolder and veinier!

ENJOY EXTRA DNA

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For convenience, price and added content, the Digital version offers more DNA goodness.

SUPADUPA SHORTS

We'd like to invite you to have a look at Supawear's new Summer 2016 collection.

The seasonal palette is bright confident greens, strong fossil greys and cool blues alongside custom prints inspired by summer.

Highlights include Supawear's new woven stretch fabric, which makes it supa lightweight, quick drying, mobile and fun. The perfect short this summer.

Available now in three summery prints – Pineapple, Blossom and Ahoy!

SHOP!

SUPA

Pin-Up!

PHOTOGRAPHY, STYLING, GROOMING CHÁN ANDRÉ FOR VOYEURIZED
MODEL DAVID JOHN CRAIG
HAIR PHILIP WOLFF

I ♥
TED

DETAILS
OCTOBER 1998

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to our world...
a world of
simple pleasures
eh
an elite haven.
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